

MOCKINGBIRD™ 8

MARVEL

GAIN
NIEMCZYK
ROSENBERG

CIVIL WAR™ II



DAY 5

FORECAST

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Hulk candlelight vigil. But the green body paint continues to be an issue for housekeeping. Deck 2 will be closed tomorrow for cleaning.

Some of you may have noticed a new passenger on board. Ahoy, to the Phantom Rider, Lincoln Slade! He will not be speaking at the Nerd Cruise banquet. Mr. Slade is here for personal reasons (murder, stalking).

Enjoy your cruise!

Yours sincerely,
Captain Katie Kubert

Today's wi-fi password is: ELIZAFANTASTIC



Dark skies



Rogue waves



Chance of dying of food poisoning: 1 in 5

FAQ

Q: Didn't the Phantom Rider once trick Mockingbird into hooking up with him in the Old West?

A: Lincoln Slade did aggressively woo Bobbi Morse, shortly before he fell off a cliff. Now he is a ghost, but he is able to join us because he is possessing our ship porter.

Q: Am I in danger of being possessed?

A: Mr. Slade can only possess relatives. We recommend that all passengers consult a genealogy website at their earliest convenience.

The Crew

Writer: **Chelsea Cain**

Penciler: **Kate Niemczyk**

Color Artist: **Rachelle Rosenberg**

Letterer: **VC's Joe Caramagna**

Cover: **Joëlle Jones & Rachelle Rosenberg**

Cosplay Variant: **Cosplay by Lauren Matesic of Castle Corsetry. Photo by Judith Stephens.**

Production Design: **Carlos Lao**

Assistant Editor: **Christina Harrington**

Editor: **Katie Kubert**

Executive Editor: **Tom Brevoort**

Editor in Chief: **Axel Alonso**

Chief Creative Officer: **Joe Quesada**

Publisher: **Dan Buckley**

Executive Producer: **Alan Fine**

The Doubleclicks will be playing a free show in the Tiny Tortoise Lounge immediately following the dungeon master support group.

PARIS, FRANCE.
THE CITY THAT
GAVE US THE GUILLOTINE.
ALSO, THE POLO SHIRT.
THIS WAS BACK WHEN
I WAS STILL MARRIED TO
CLINT BARTON. BARELY.

HE'S ALWAYS
JUDGING ME. HE SAYS I LOAD
THE DISHWASHER WRONG. THAT
I HOG THE BLANKETS. THAT MY
COSTUME SHOWS TOO
MUCH THIGH.

YOU
MURDERED
A MAN IN
COLD BLOOD,
BOBBI.

SEE?
THERE.

THAT'S
WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.

YOU
KILLED
SOMEONE.

HE'S
EXAGGERATING.

YOU LET THAT
GHOST COWBOY
FALL TO HIS DEATH. THAT'S
NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE. YOU
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE PUSHED
HIM OFF THAT CLIFF
YOURSELF.

LINCOLN
SLADE, THE
PHANTOM RIDER.
YOU MURDERED
HIM.

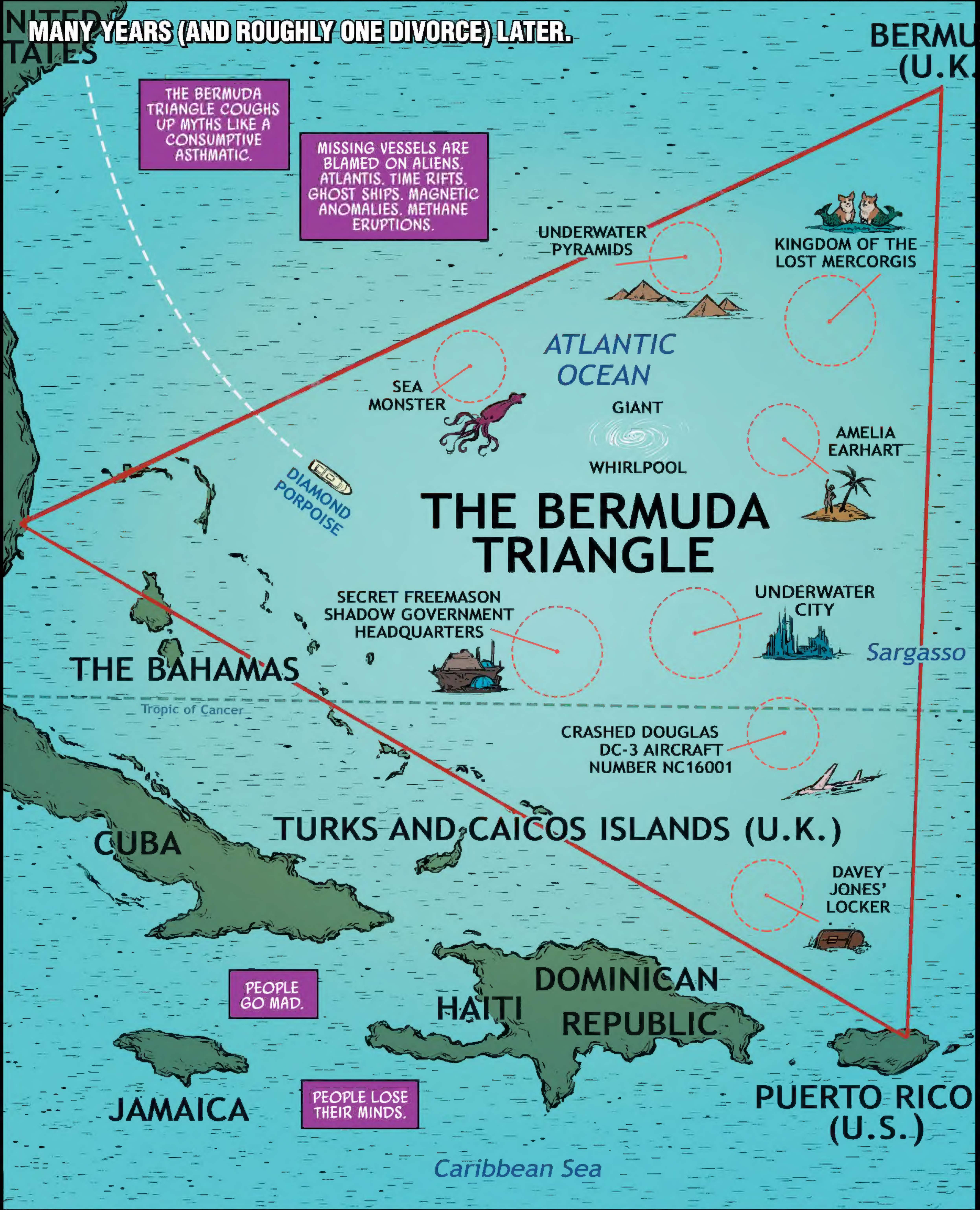
YOU CAN'T
EVEN BRING
YOURSELF TO SAY
HIS NAME,
CAN YOU?

DON'T
BE SILLY,
DARLING.

PHANTOMS
CAN'T BE
KILLED.

I CAN'T
DO THIS
ANYMORE.

...HE'LL
BE BACK.



ON BOARD THE
DIAMOND PORPOISE.
BERMUDA TRIANGLE.

I LOVE YOU, BABY.
I'VE ALWAYS
LOVED YOU.

MEET MY
STALKER.

NOT THE
ELFIN-LOOKING
PORTER

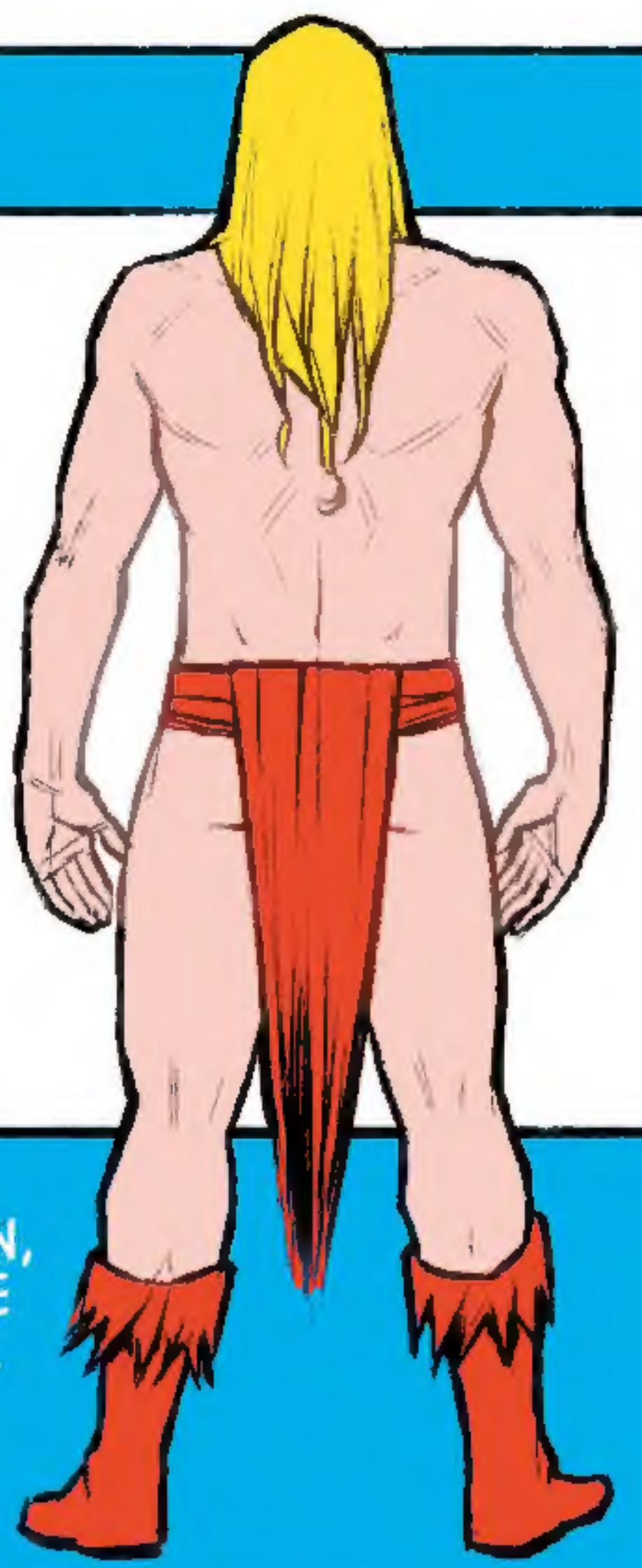
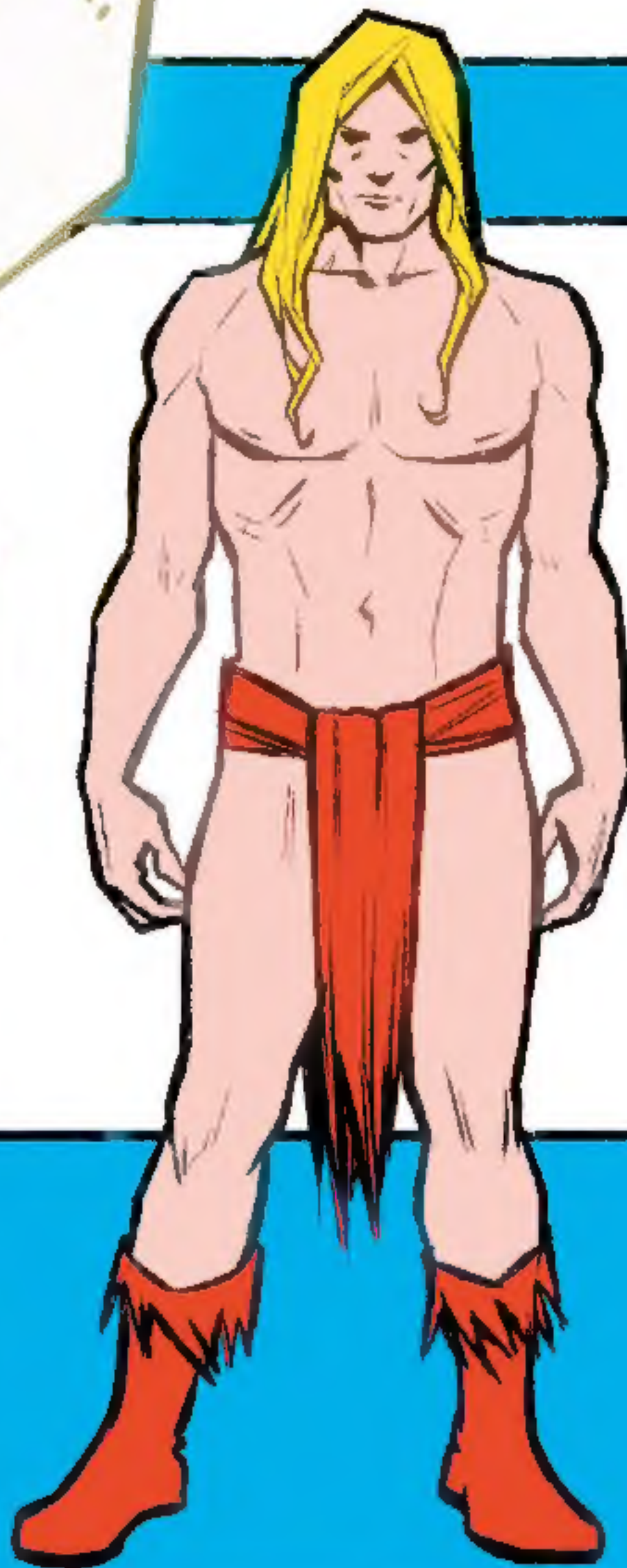
THE SPIRIT POSSESSING
THE PORTER

THE
PHANTOM
RIDER.

SEE ME.

I'VE HAD MY
SHARE OF
HINKY EXES.

KA-ZAR*



*THE MAN,
NOT THE
CORGI.

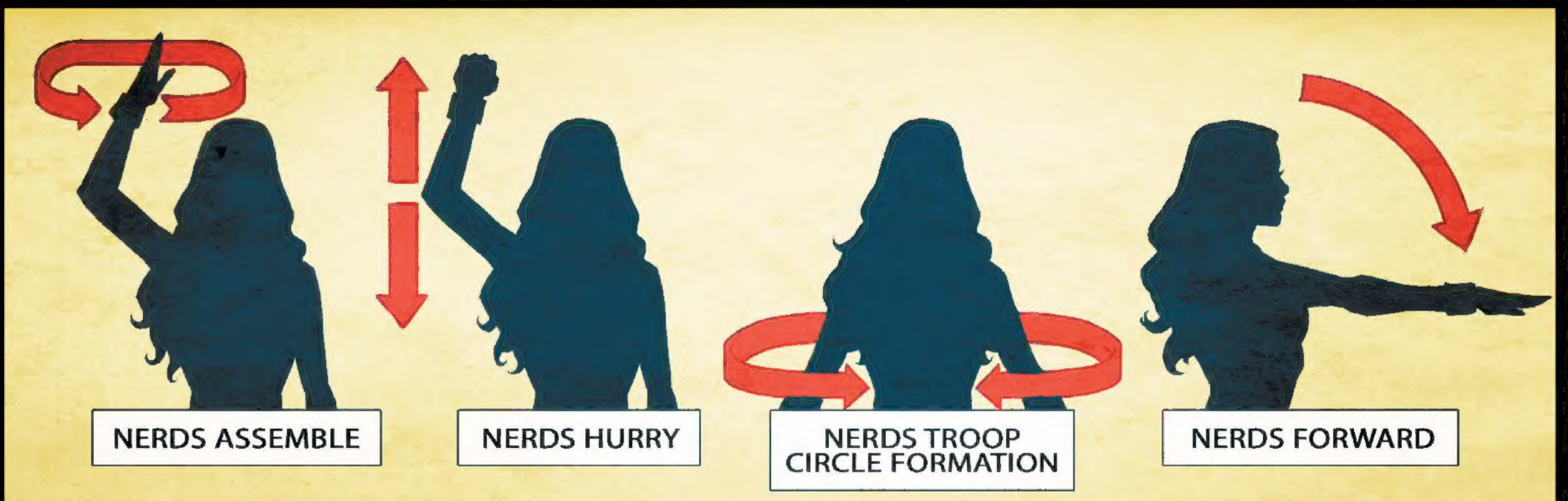
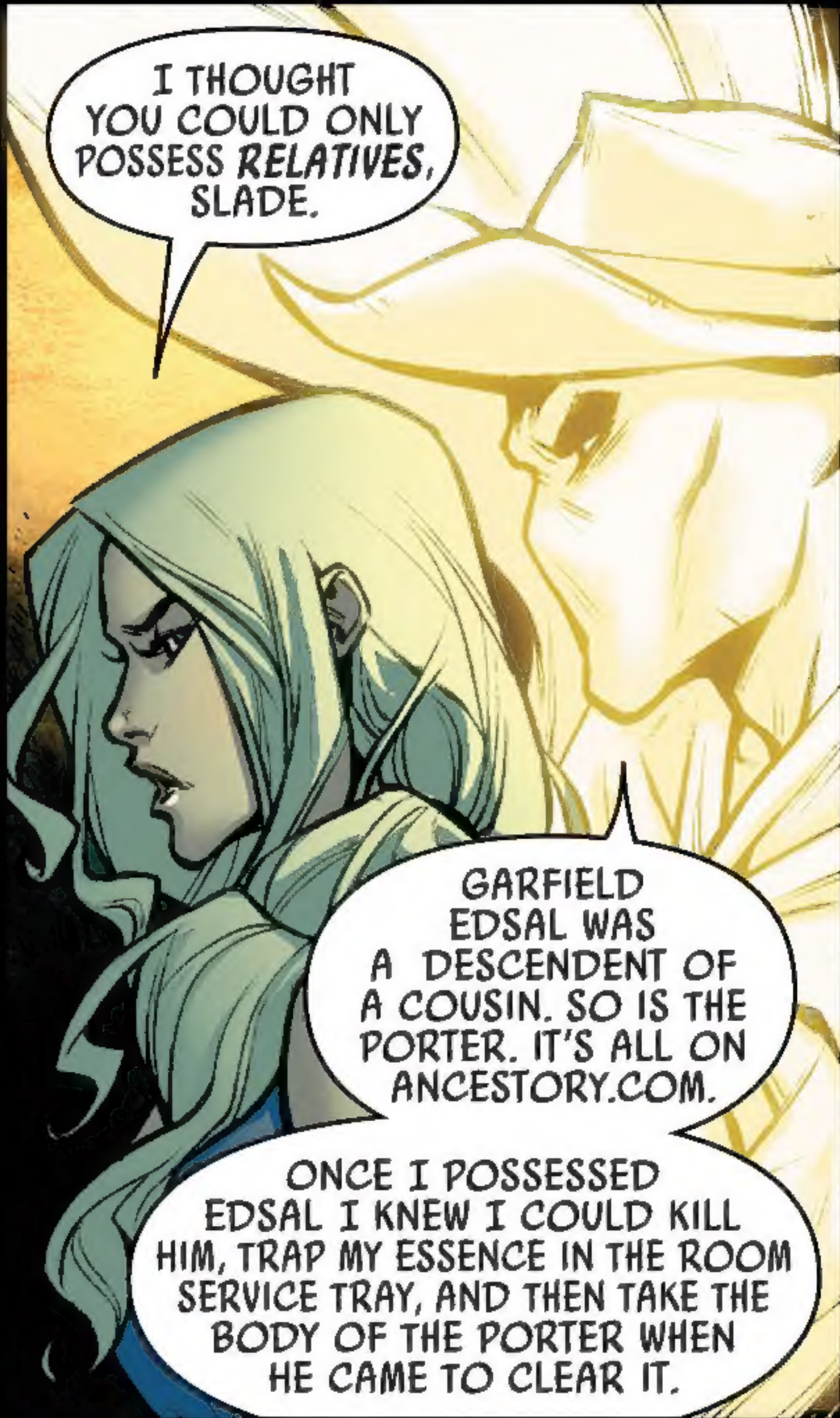
PHANTOM RIDER

WOMAN!
YOU WILL MAKE
ME DINNER! THE
PHANTOM RIDER
COMMANDS
IT!

DO YOU
HEAR ME,
WOMAN?

WOMAN?

PHANTOM
RIDER WAS THE
HINKIEST.





I LOVE ATTENTION.

I LOVE HALL AND OATES.

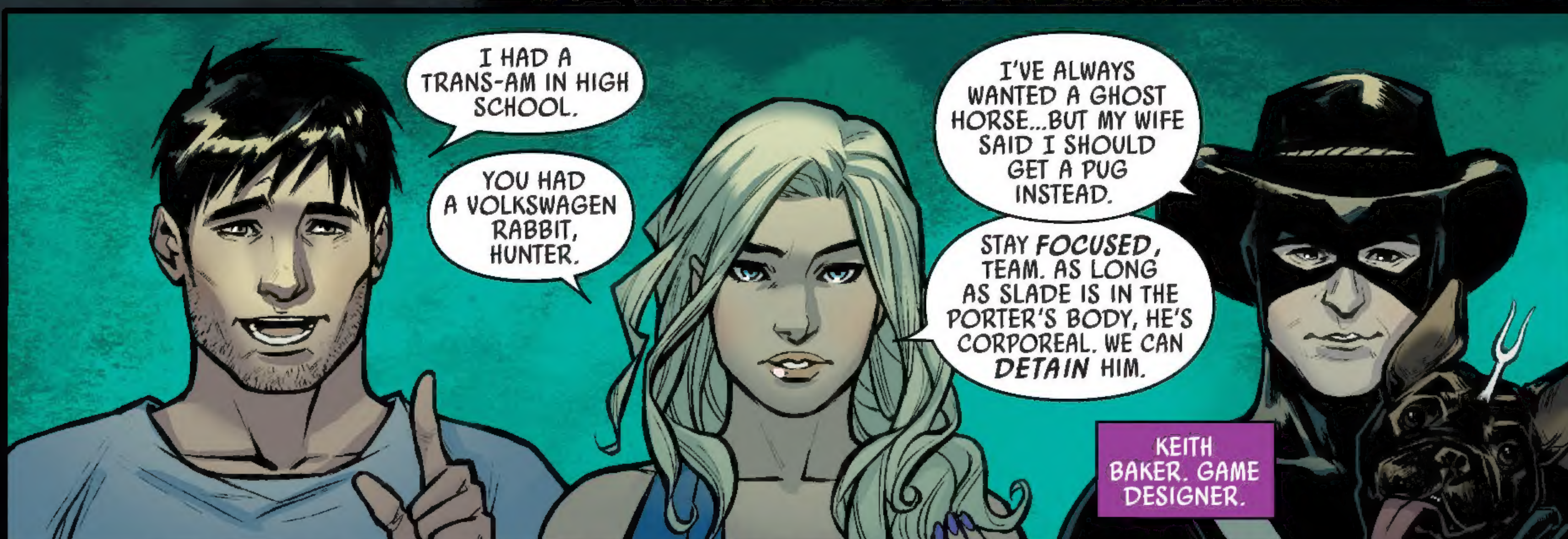
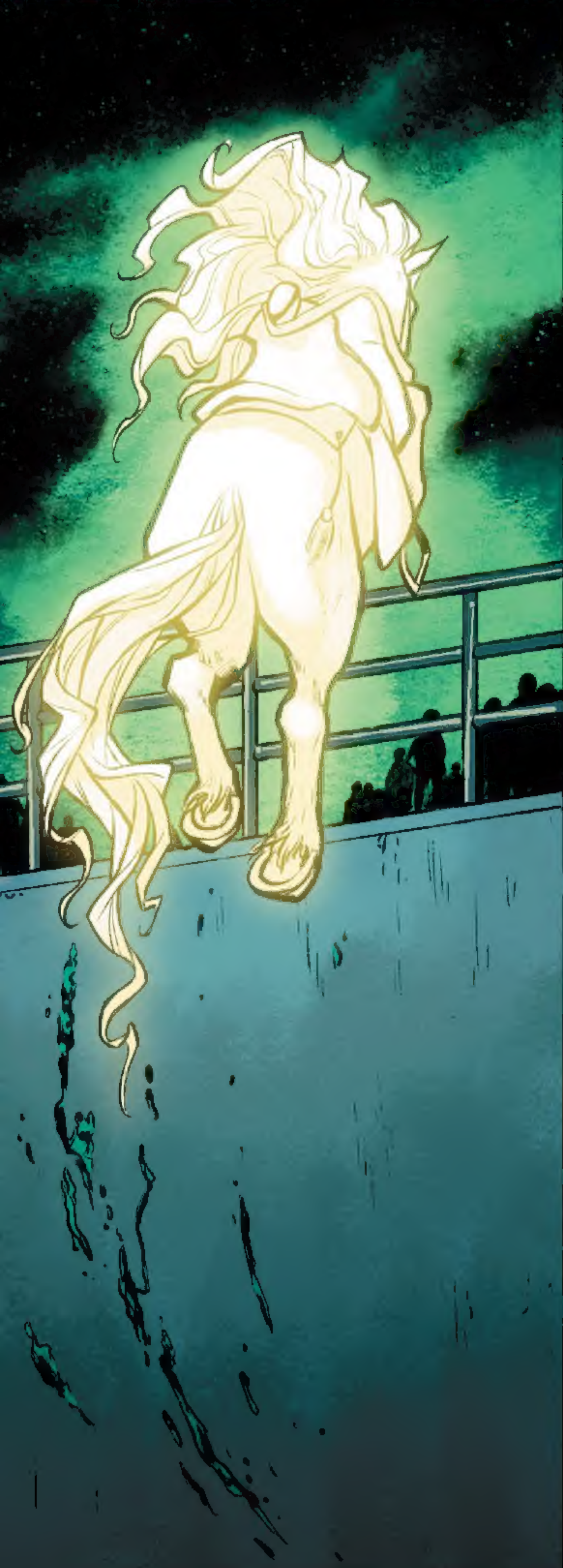
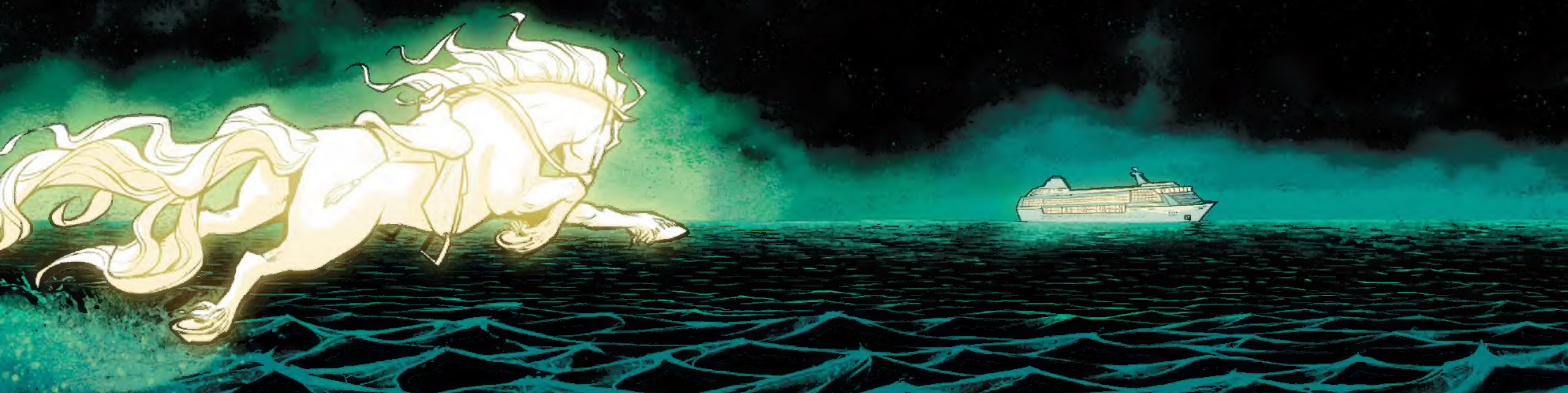


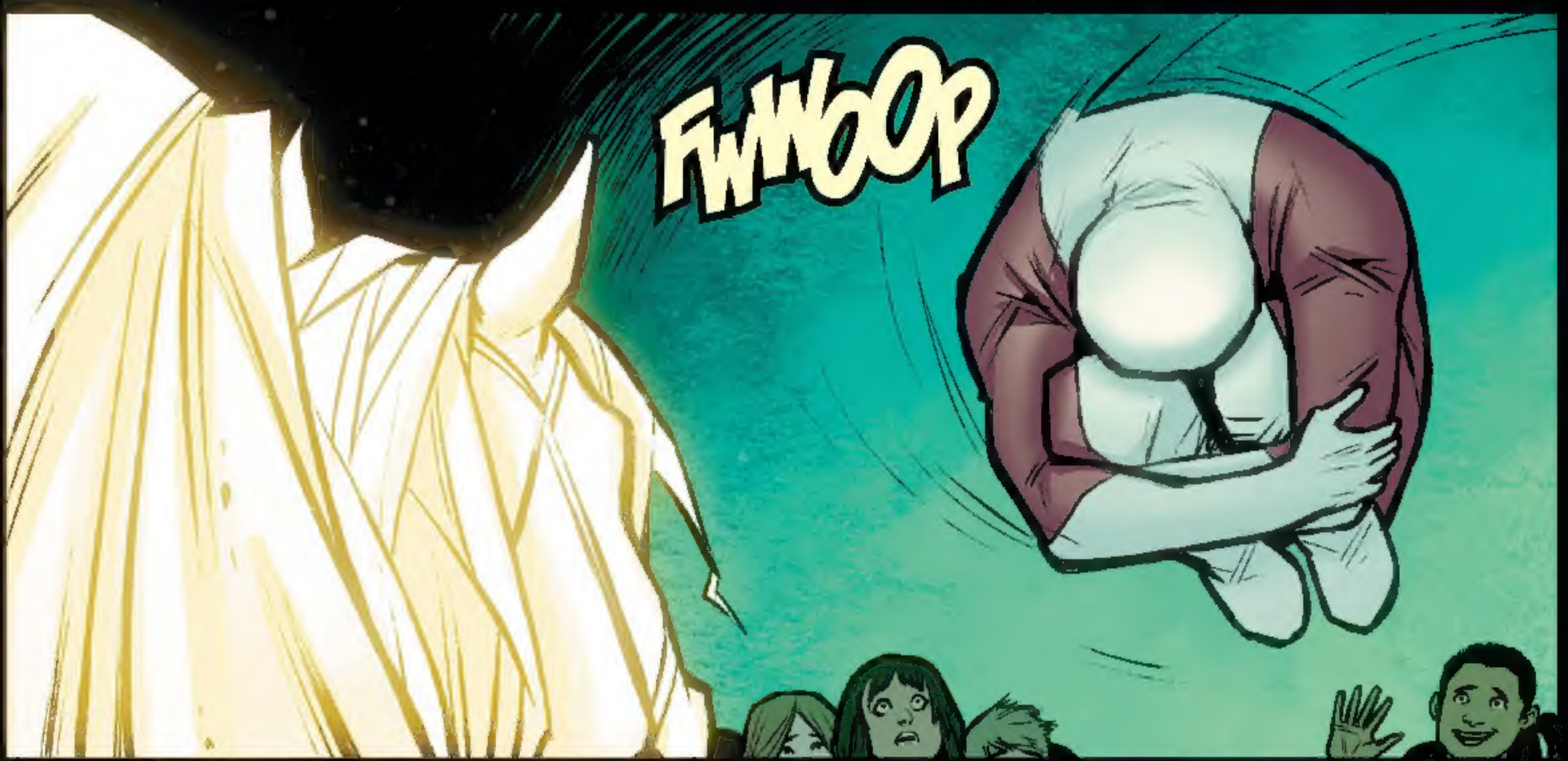
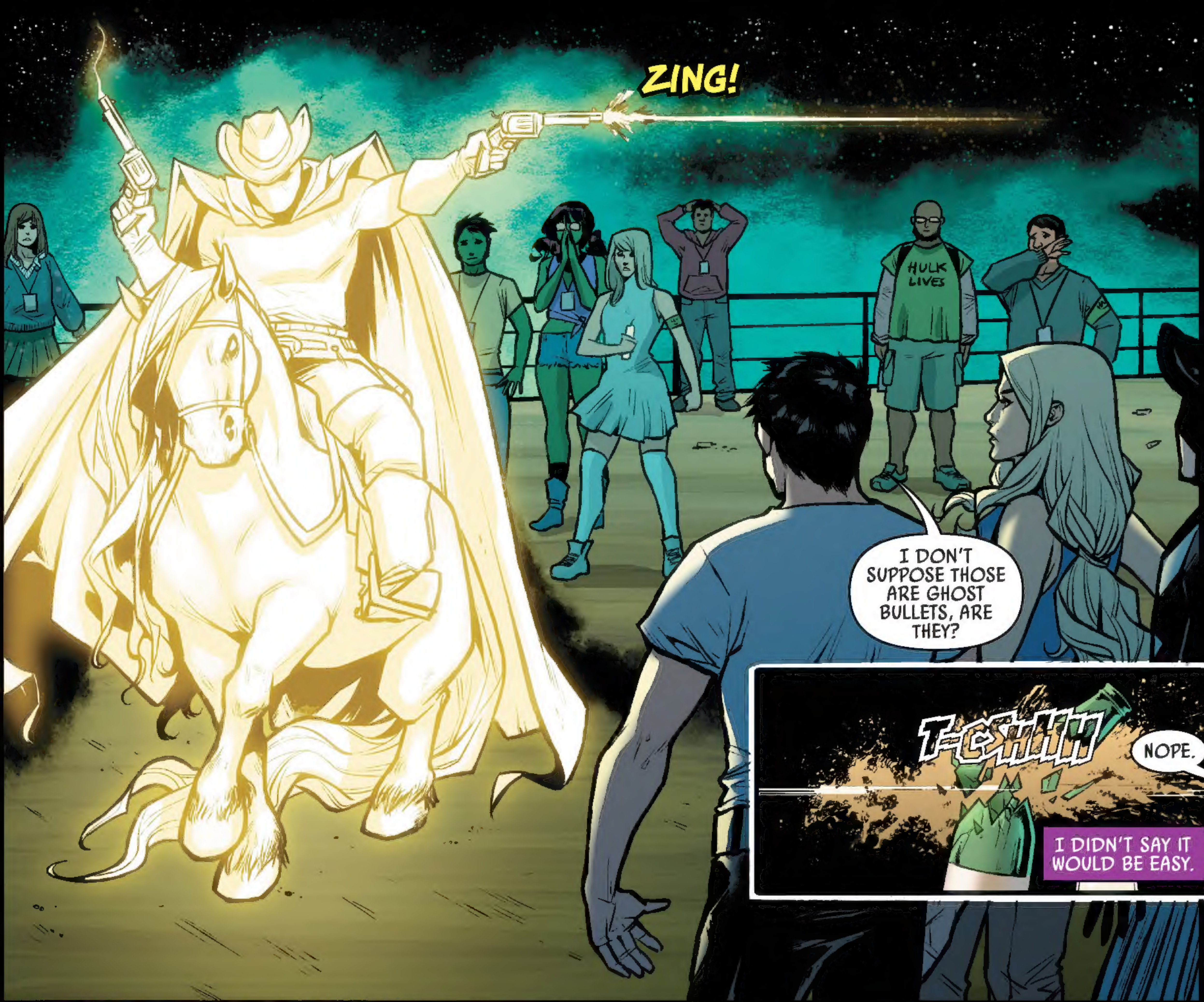
I'M THE LAW ON THIS BOAT, SLADE.

AND YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.



FWEEEEEEEEEEET!
BANSHEE!





JOHN
RODERICK.
ANECDOTIST.

GAHHHHHHHHHHH!

RODERICK
SMASH!

WHA?

WHOOSH!

PHOTON BLAST!
PHOTON BLAST!
PHOTON BLAST!

LIGHT RAY!
LIGHT RAY!
LIGHT RAY!

ANGELA AND
AUDREY WEBBER.
NERD FOLK
SISTER DUO.

NEEIGHHH!

PHOTON
BLAST!

LIGHT RAY!
LIGHT RAY!
LIGHT RAY!



I'LL SHOOT ALL OF YOU.

HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA!

NEIGHHHHHH



BANG!



ZING!



FWTT

THE PHANTOM RIDER WASN'T KNOWN FOR HIS AIM.



EASY, BOY. EASSSSY.

PAUL SABOURIN, HALF OF PAUL AND STORM.

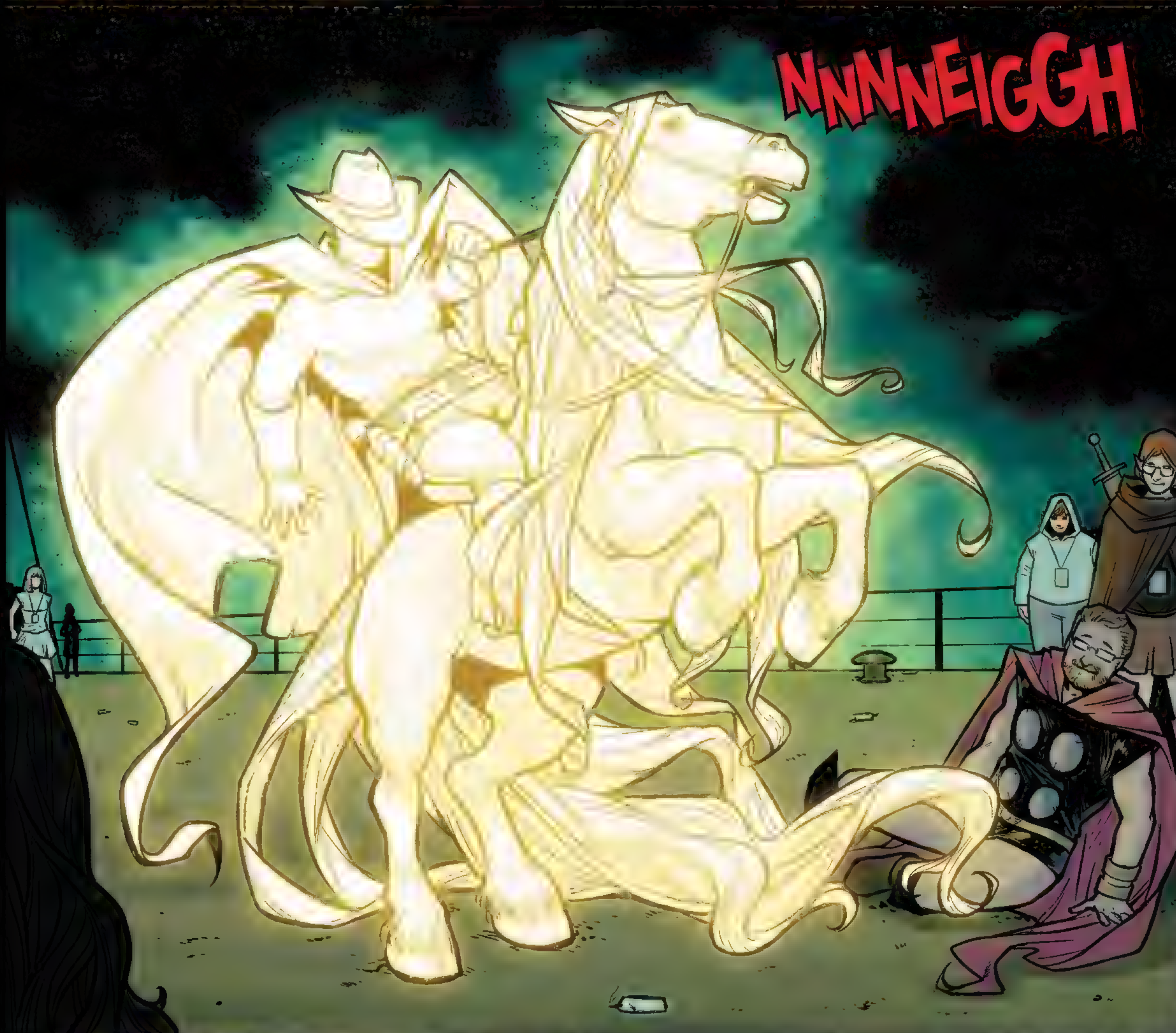


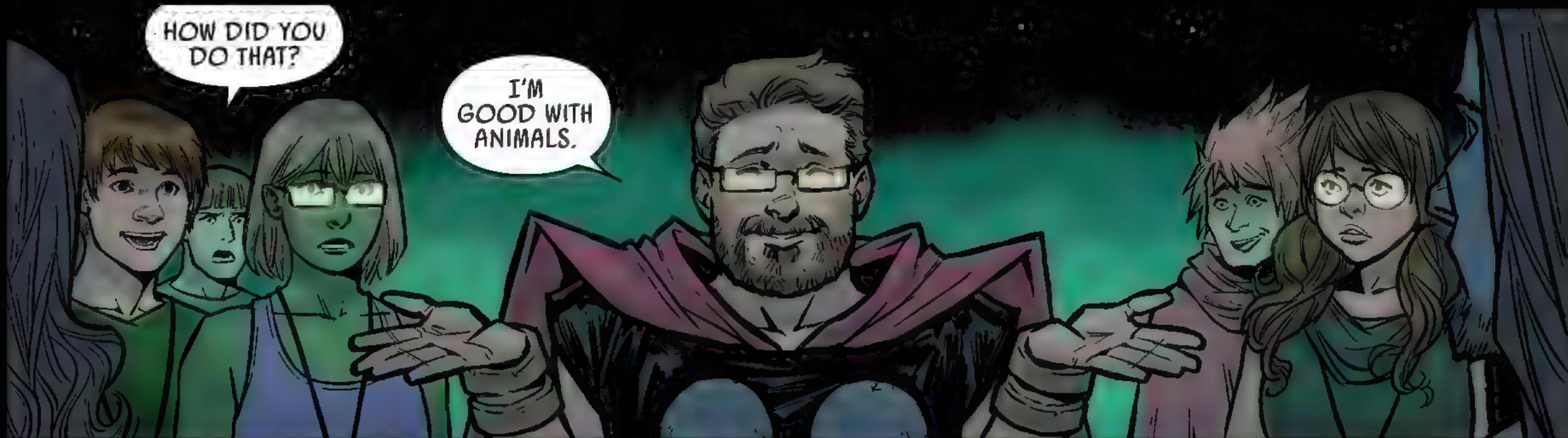
NEIGH?

SHHH, BOY. SHHHH.



THATA BOY.





HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

I'M GOOD WITH ANIMALS.

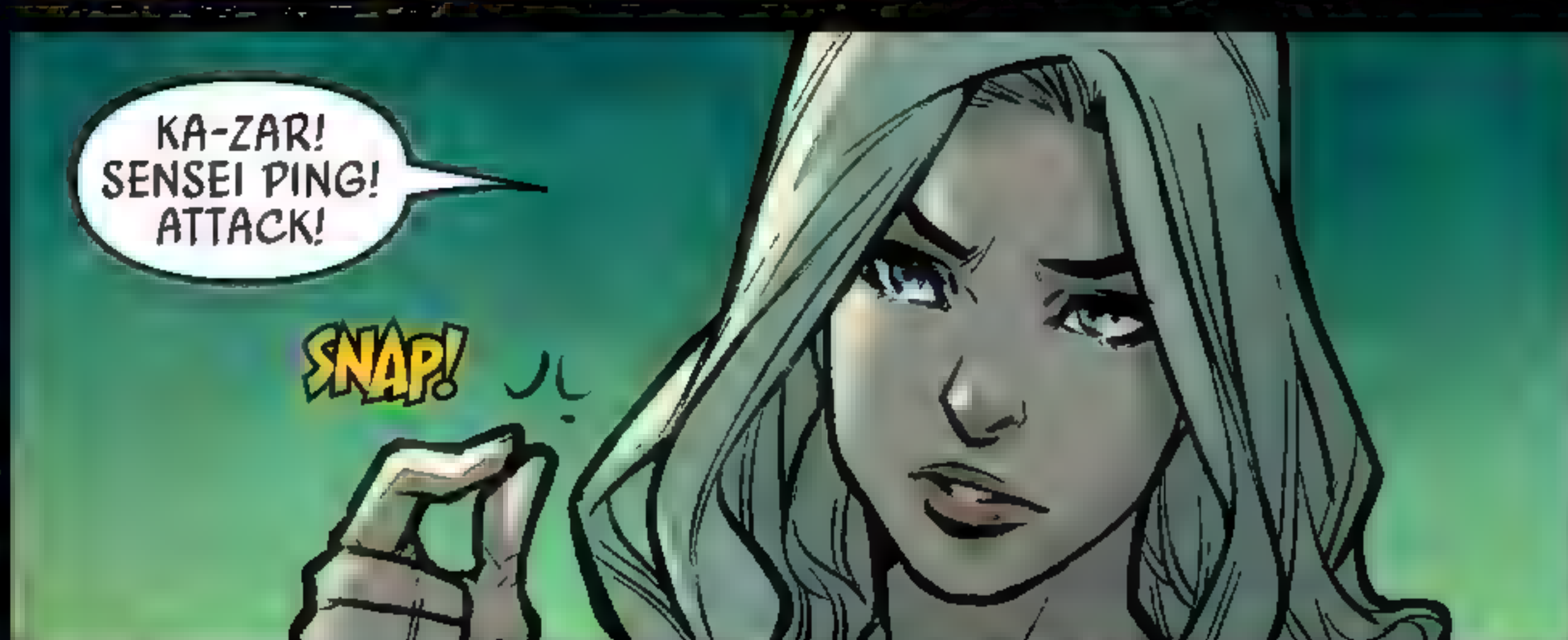


THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE BOUND BY THE SPIRIT. COME BACK, BANSHEE. I COMMAND IT!



GRRRRR

GRRRR



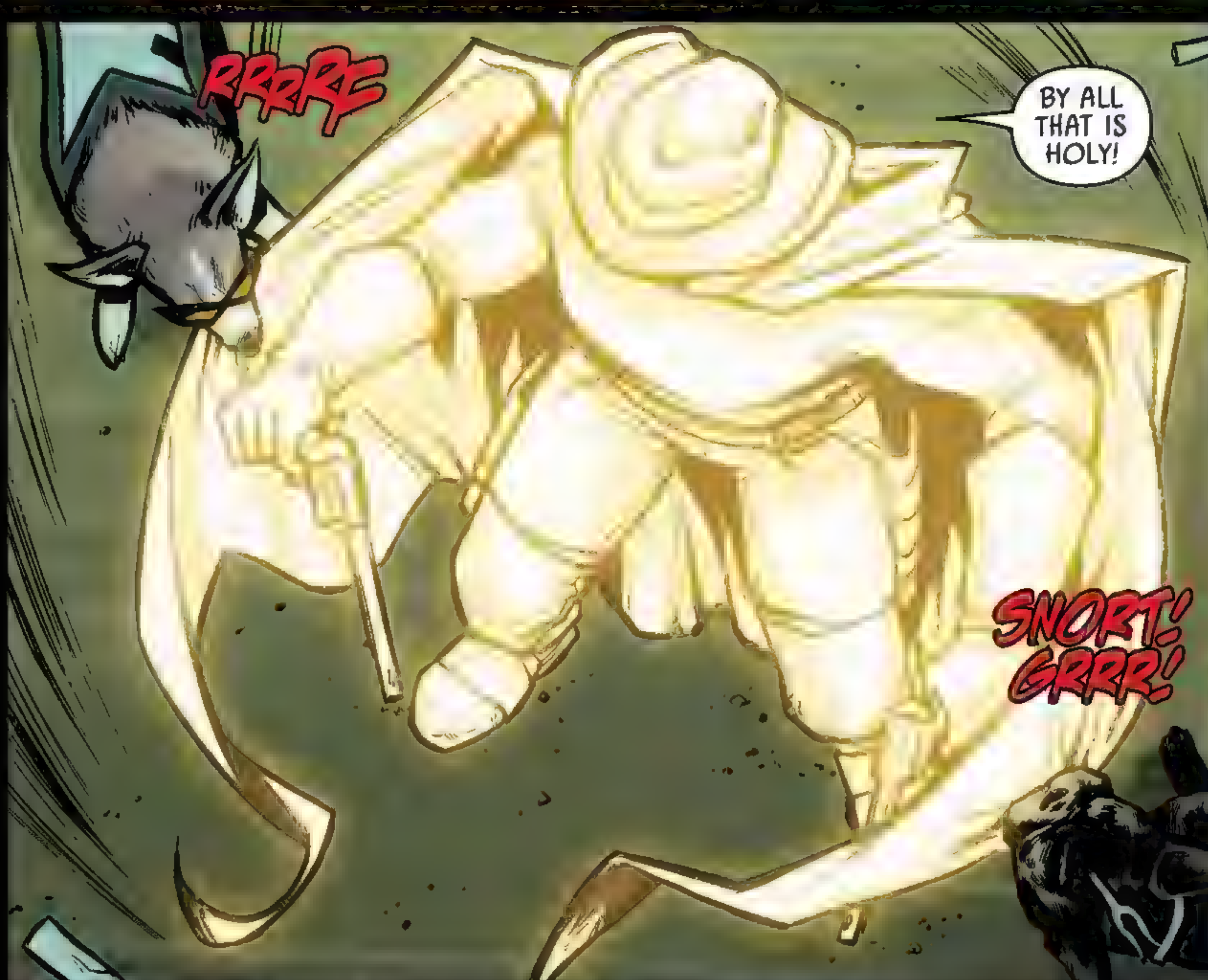
KA-ZAR! SENSEI PING! ATTACK!

SNAP!



GRRR!

GR-UUF!



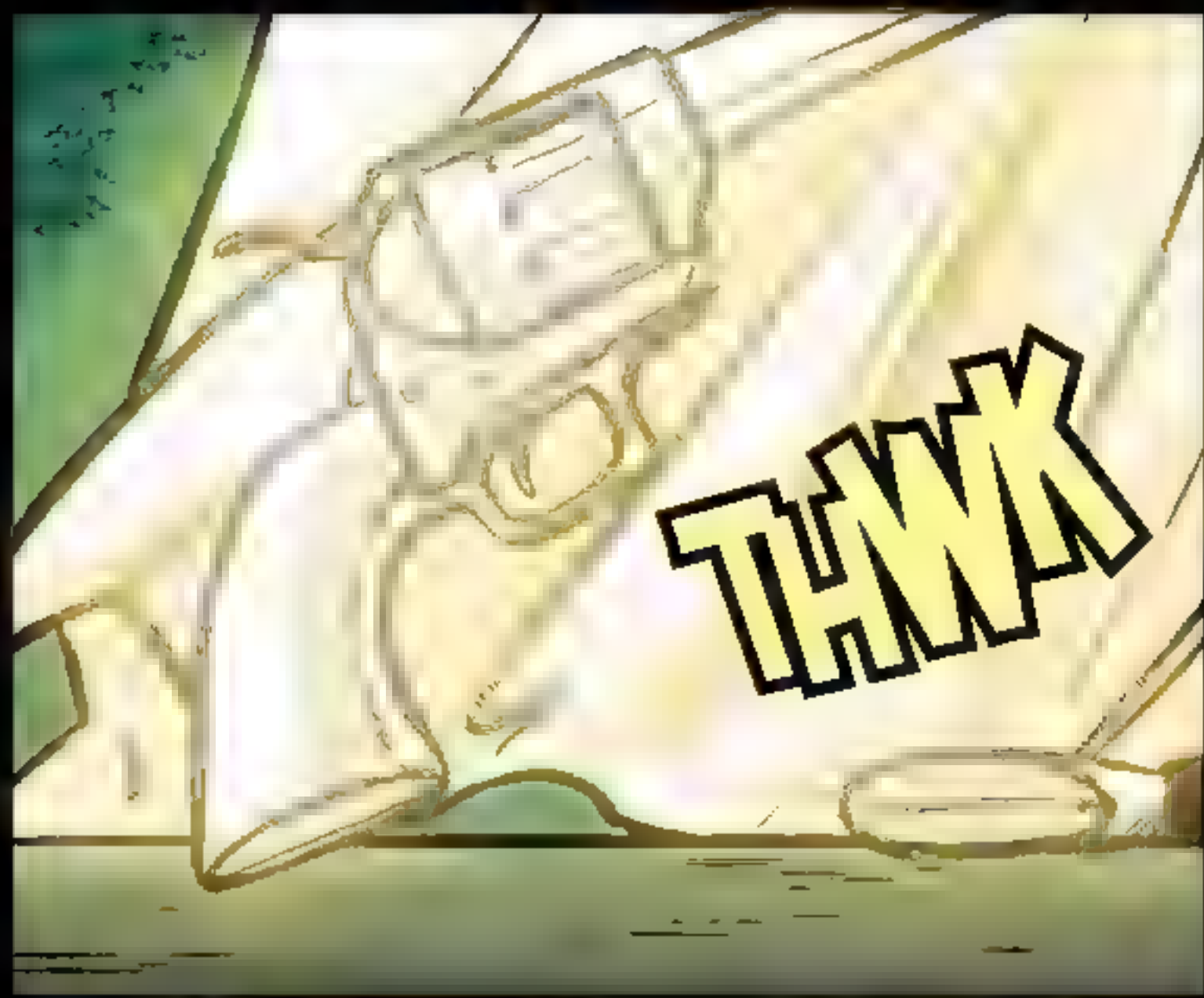
RRRRR

BY ALL THAT IS HOLY!

SNORT! GRRR!



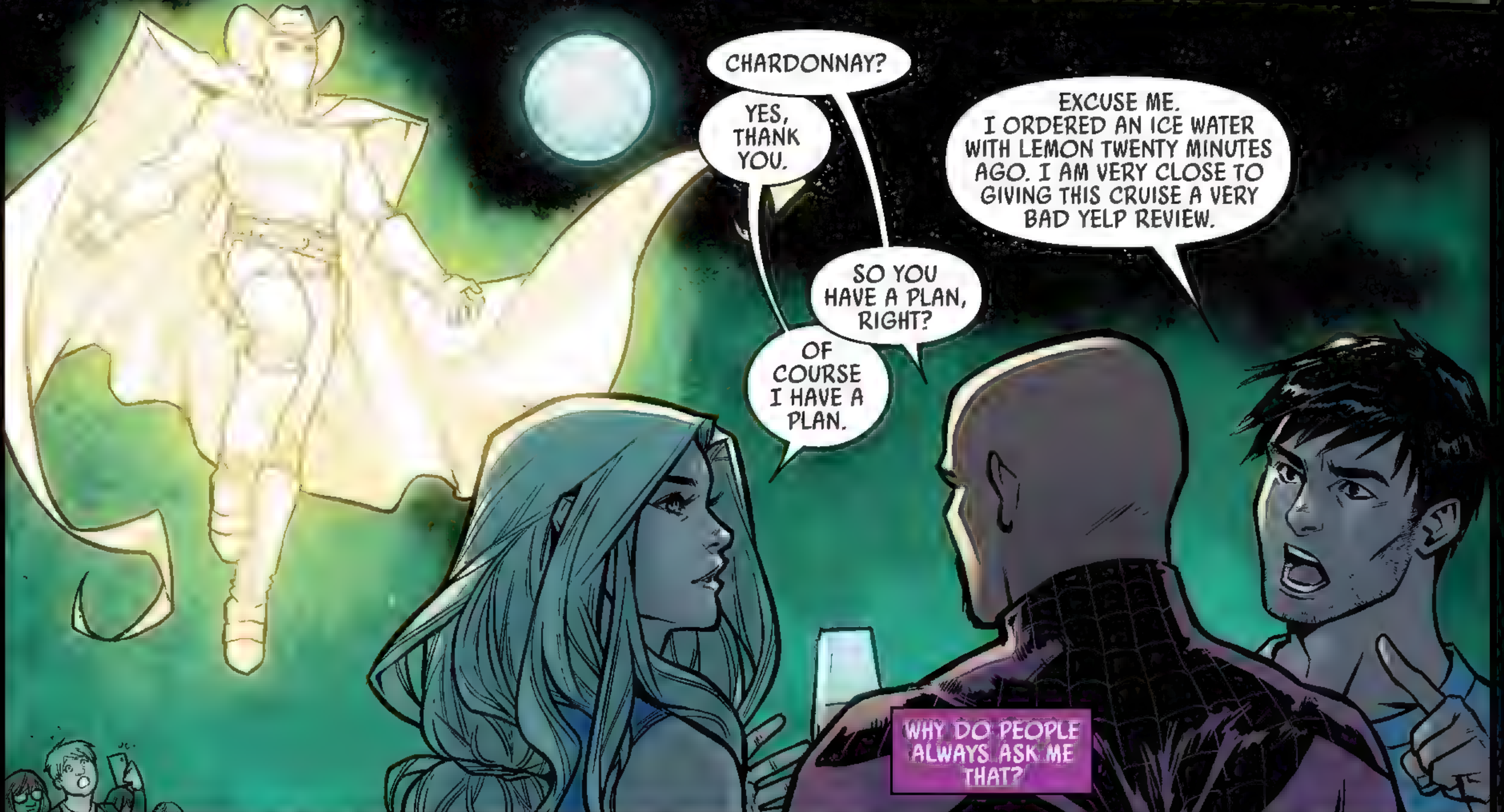
MY GUN!



I CANNOT
BE DEFEATED.
WOMAN, I WILL
HAVE YOU.
AGAIN.

YOU
GUYS DATED?
WAS IT
SERIOUS?

STOP IT,
HUNTER.



CHARDONNAY?

YES,
THANK
YOU.

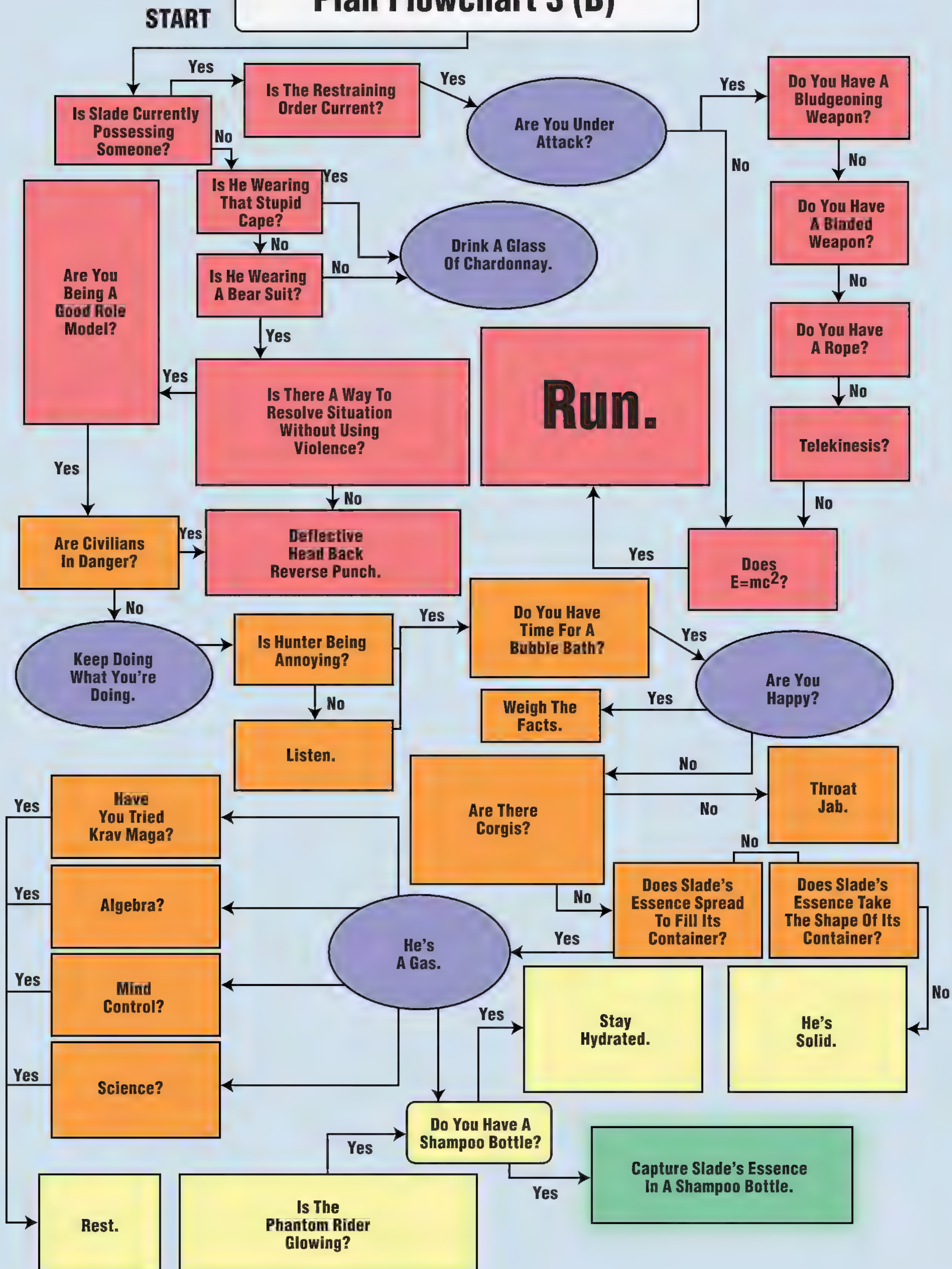
EXCUSE ME.
I ORDERED AN ICE WATER
WITH LEMON TWENTY MINUTES
AGO. I AM VERY CLOSE TO
GIVING THIS CRUISE A VERY
BAD YELP REVIEW.

SO YOU
HAVE A PLAN,
RIGHT?

OF
COURSE
I HAVE A
PLAN.

WHY DO PEOPLE
ALWAYS ASK ME
THAT?

Ghost Cowboy Stalker Ex Plan Flowchart 3 (B)





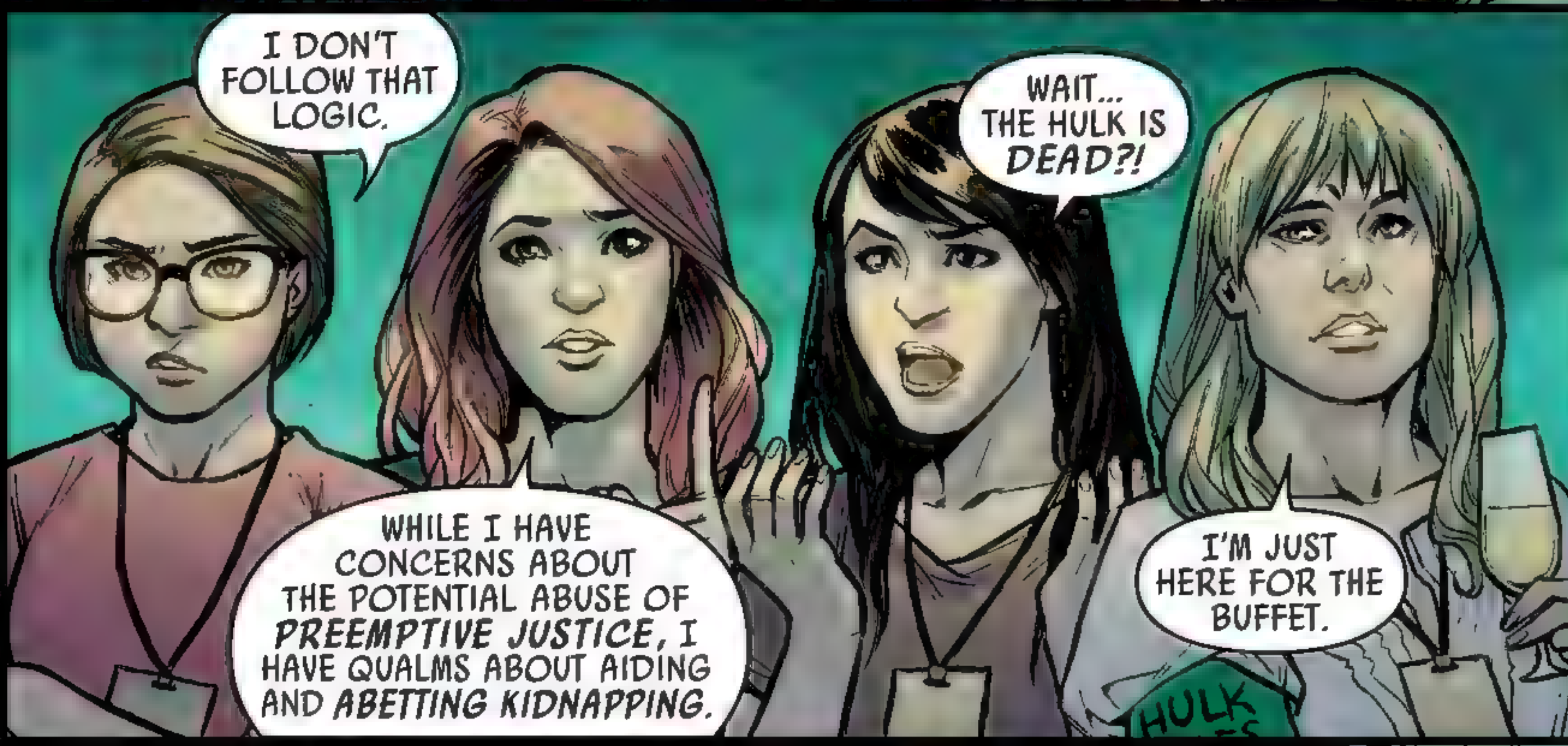
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LOOKING FOR MY TRAVEL SHAMPOO.



HULK SUPPORTERS!

STAND WITH ME! AVENGE BANNER'S DEATH BY GIVING ME HIS MURDERER'S EX-WIFE.



I DON'T FOLLOW THAT LOGIC.

WAIT... THE HULK IS DEAD?!

WHILE I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ABUSE OF *PREEMPTIVE JUSTICE*, I HAVE QUALMS ABOUT AIDING AND ABETTING KIDNAPPING.

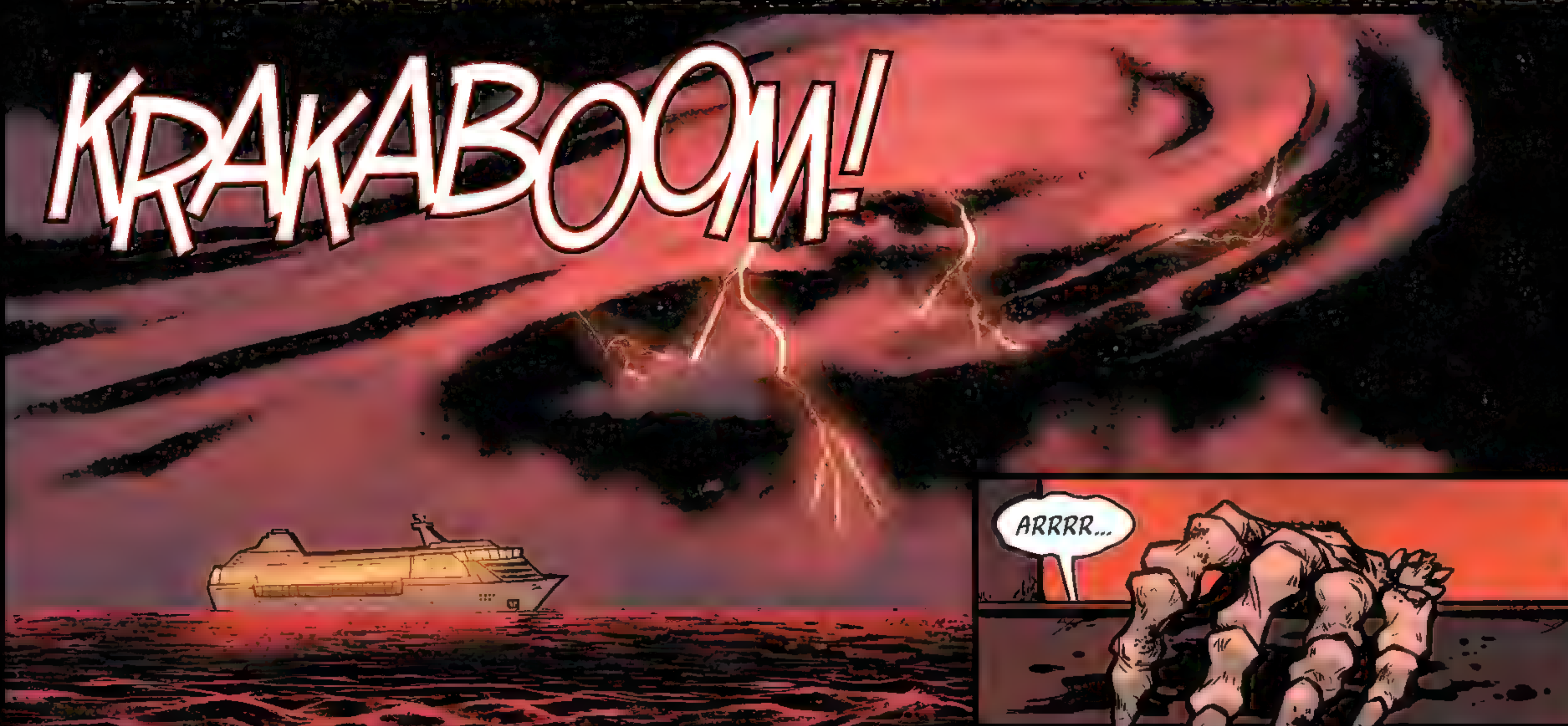
I'M JUST HERE FOR THE BUFFET.



LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, COWBOY.



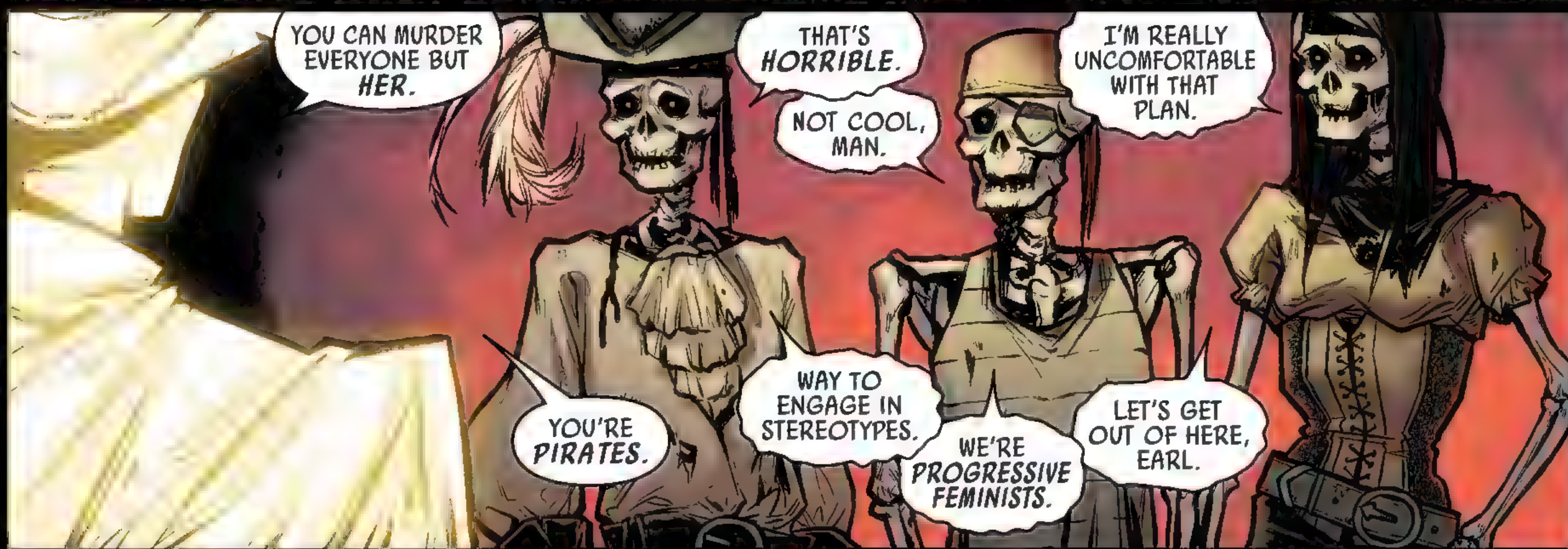
GHOST PIRATES, RISE UP! THE PHANTOM RIDER COMMANDS IT!

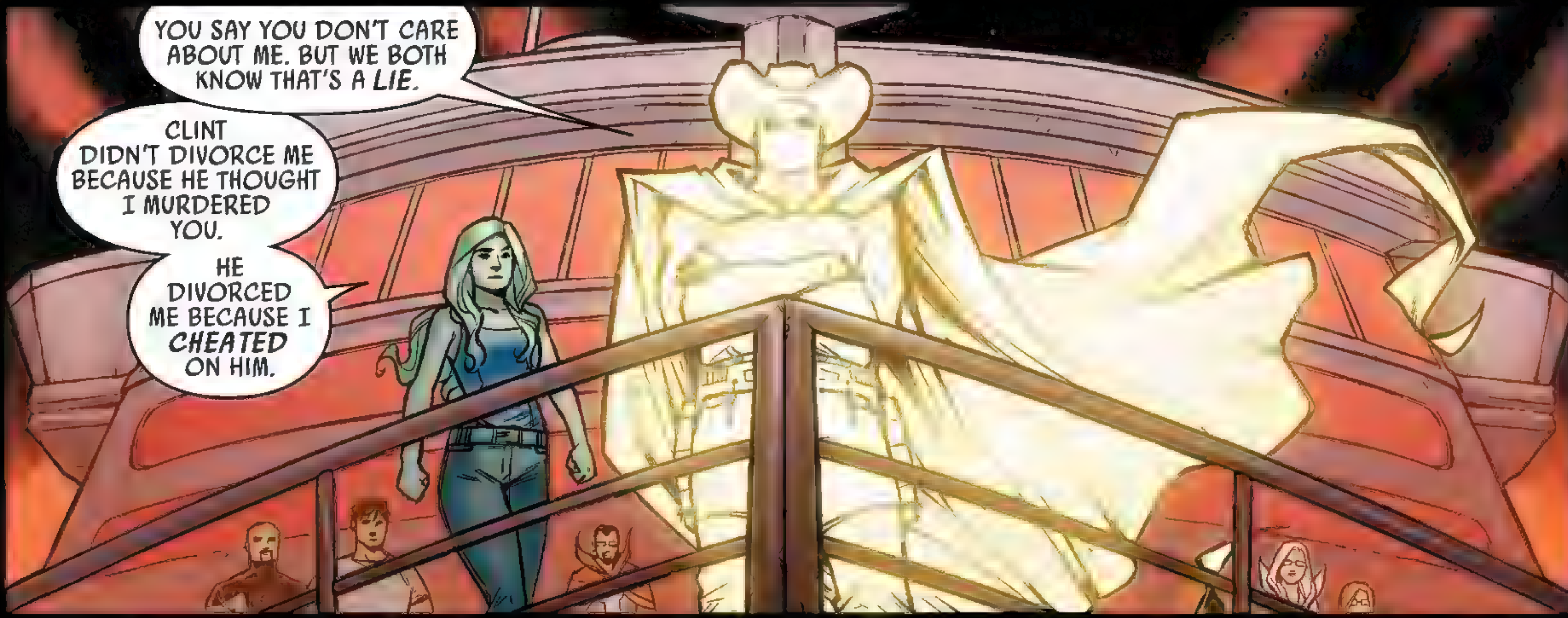


KRAKABOOM!



ARRRR...





YOU SAY YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME. BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S A LIE.

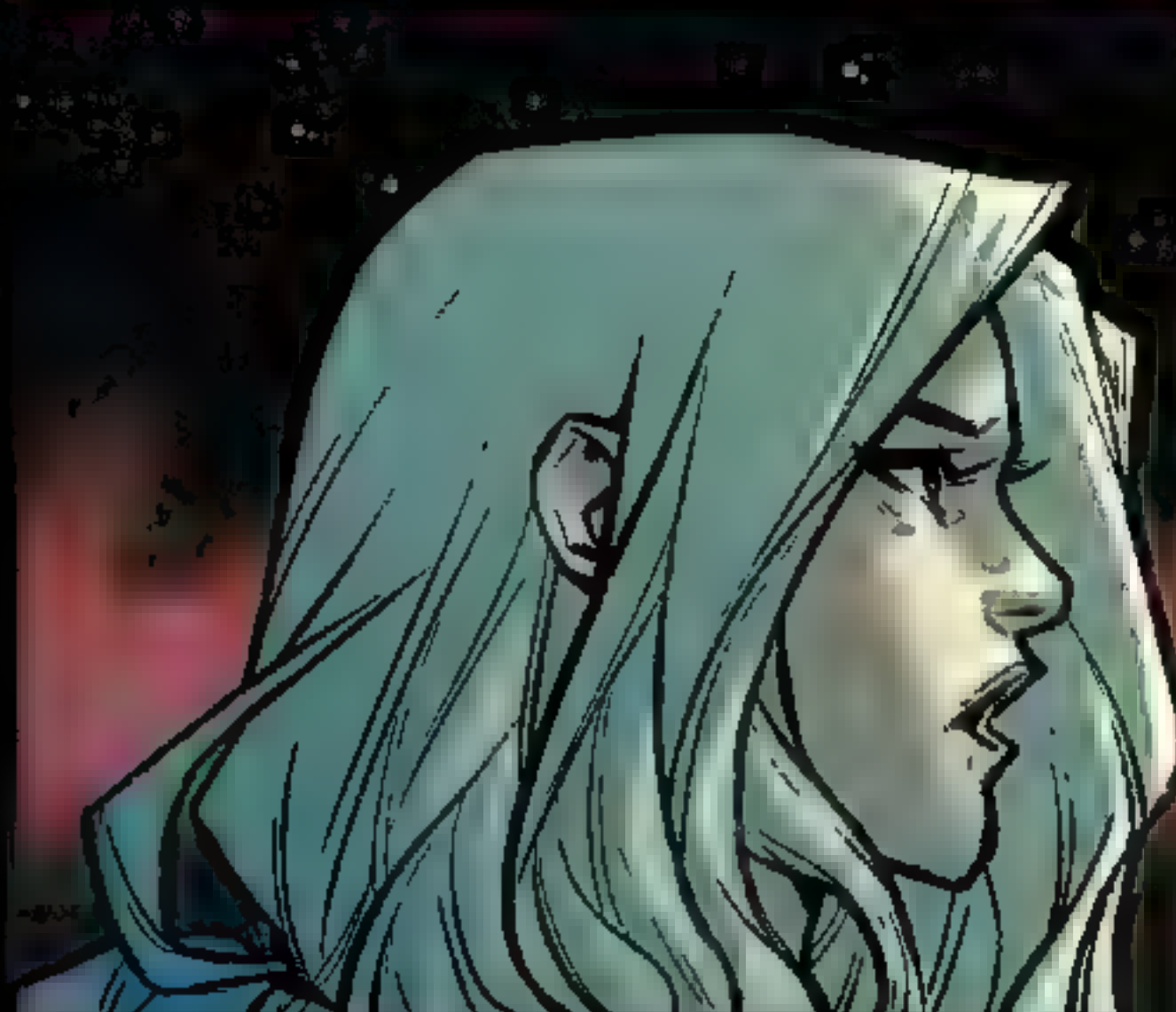
CLINT DIDN'T DIVORCE ME BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I MURDERED YOU.

HE DIVORCED ME BECAUSE I CHEATED ON HIM.

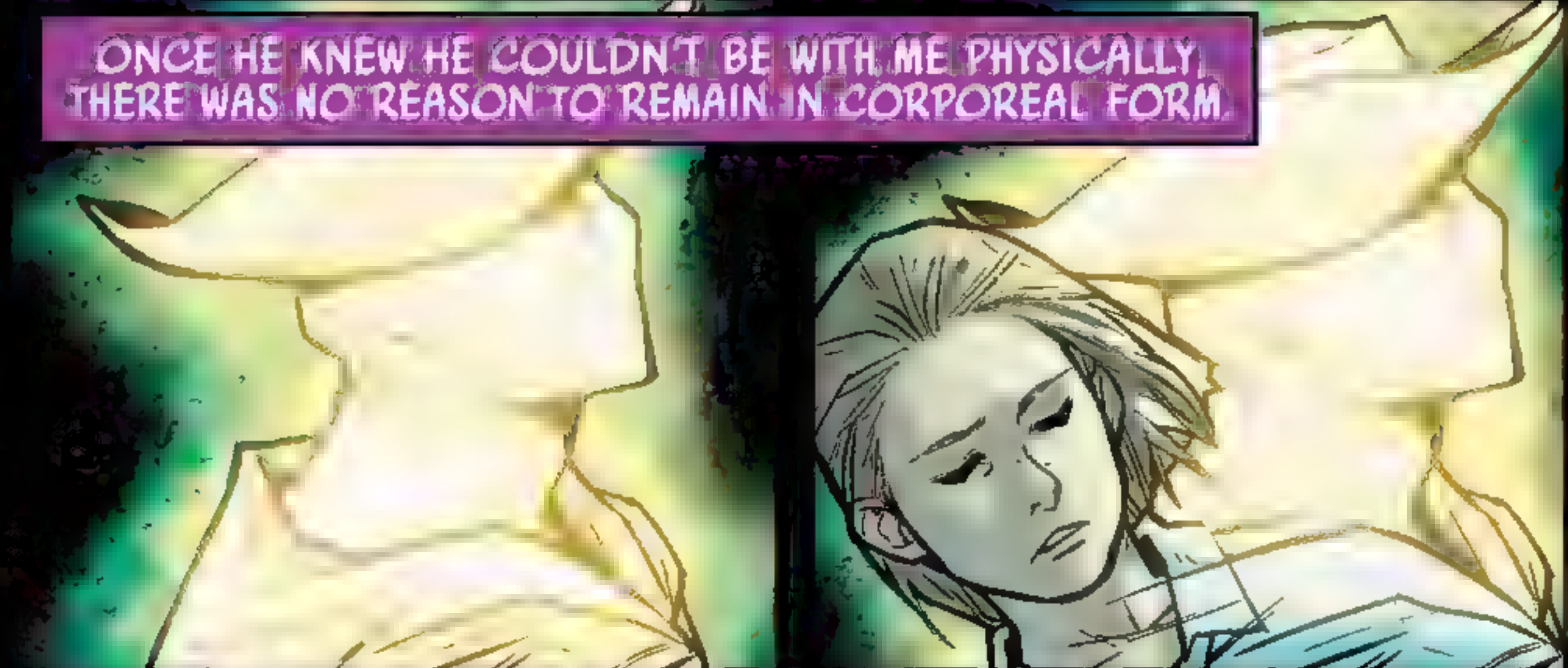
HE TOLD HIMSELF THAT YOU HAD DRUGGED ME, TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ME. BUT HE NEVER TRULY BELIEVED IT. IT'S TOO RIDICULOUS. HE KNOWS THAT I'VE ALWAYS MADE MY OWN DECISIONS. AND THAT I'LL LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

CLINT AND I ARE A LOT ALIKE THAT WAY.

WE'RE OVER? YOU AND ME? FOR GOOD?



ONCE HE KNEW HE COULDN'T BE WITH ME PHYSICALLY, THERE WAS NO REASON TO REMAIN IN CORPOREAL FORM.



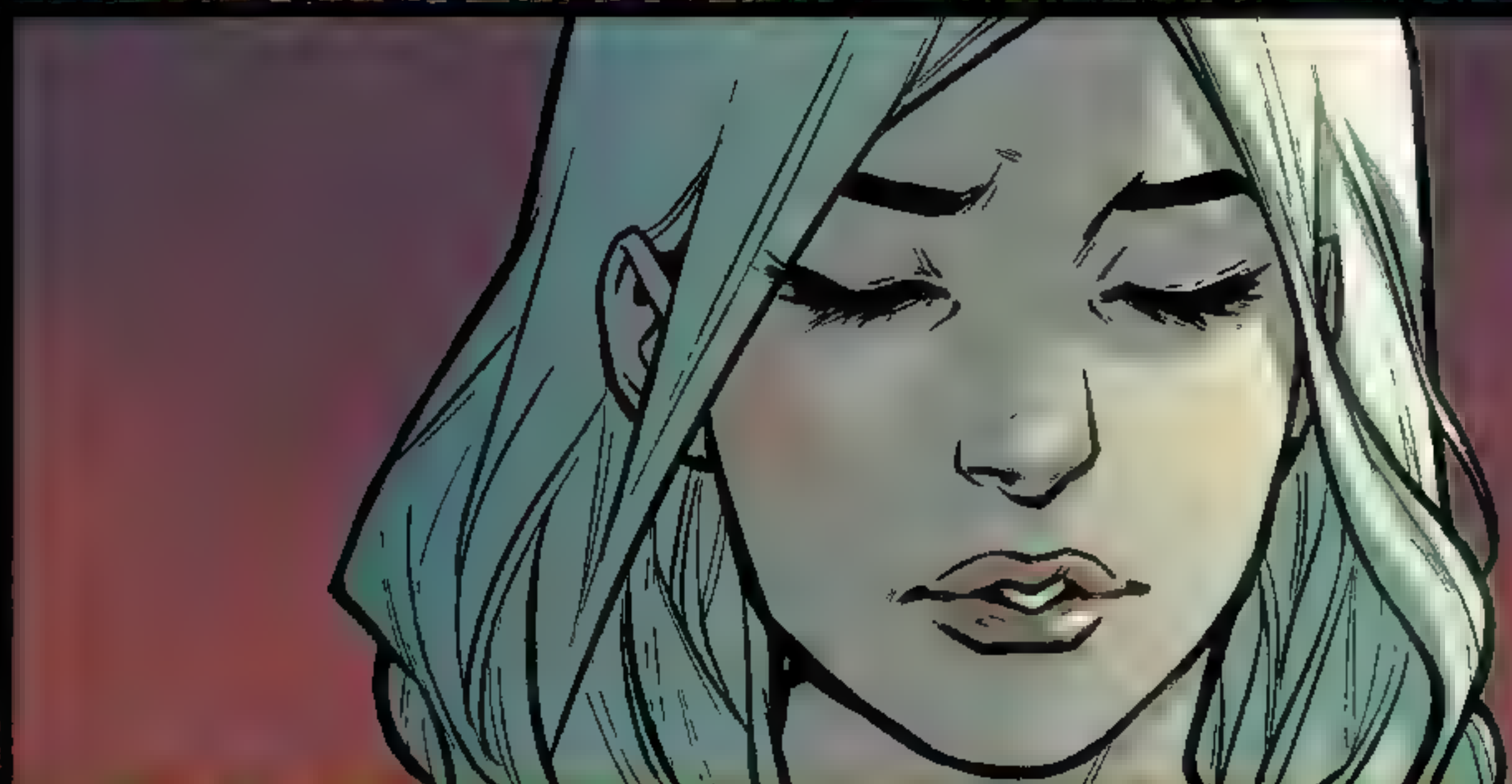
HAWKEYE WAS ACQUITTED YESTERDAY.



AND THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT MY EX-HUSBAND HAD GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER.

WAS I RELIEVED? YES.

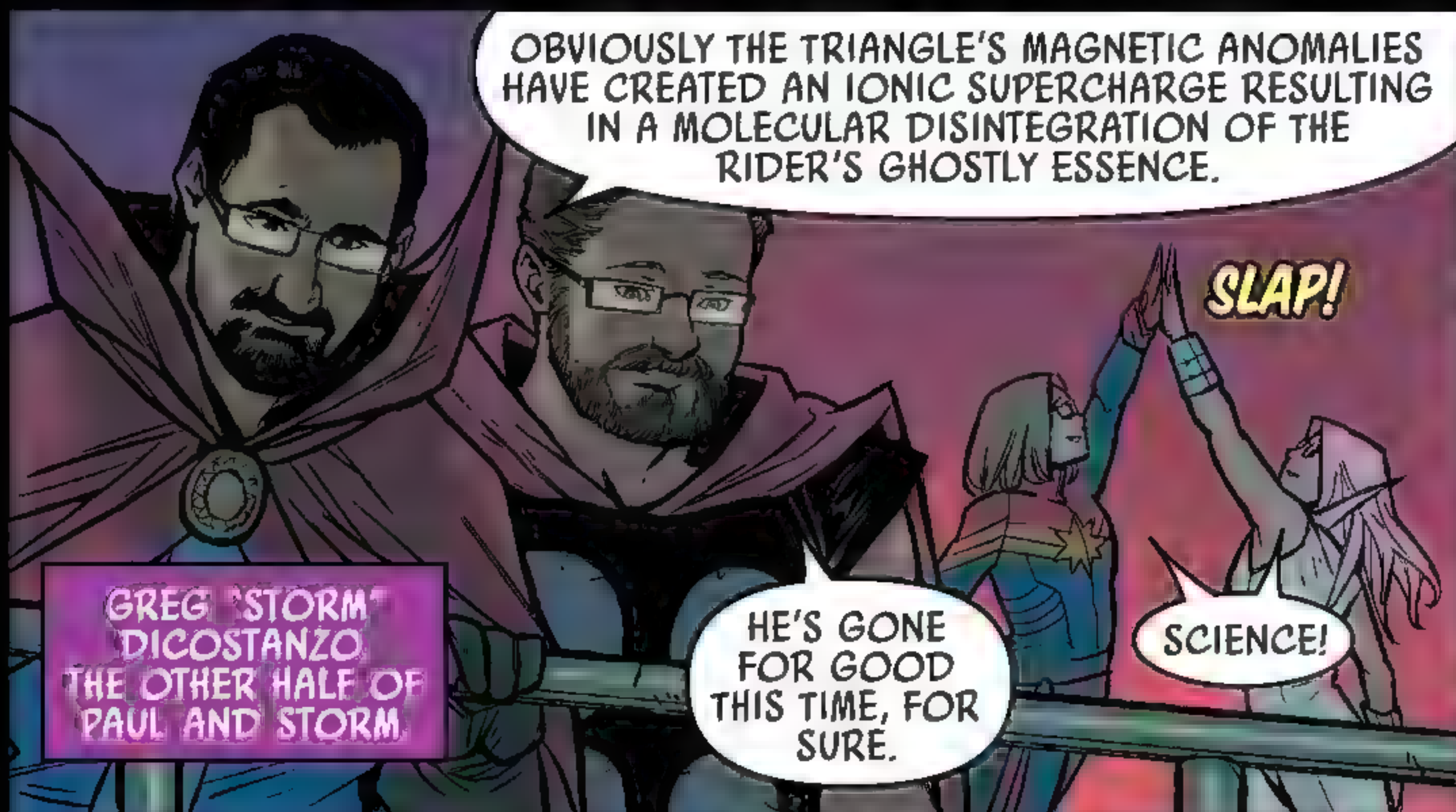
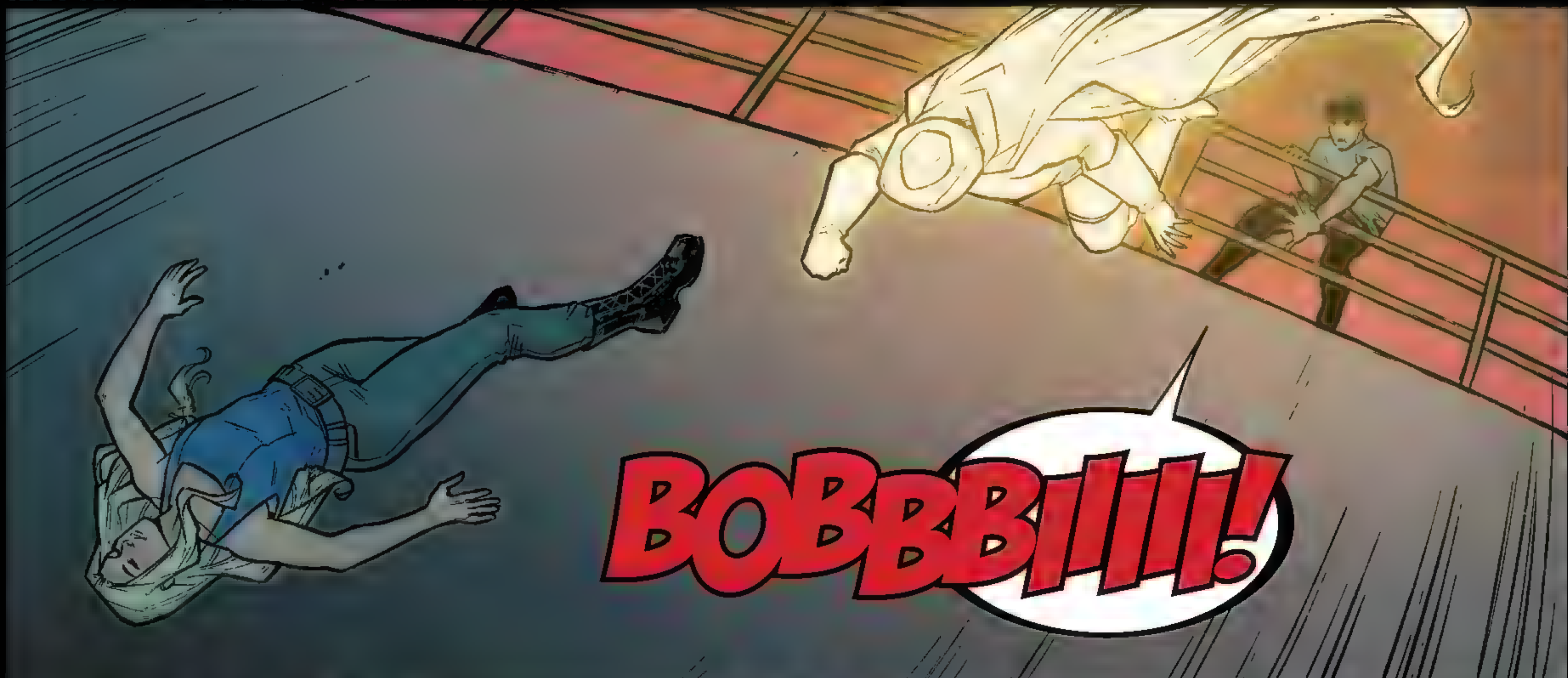
THAT'S WHY I LET MY GUARD DOWN.

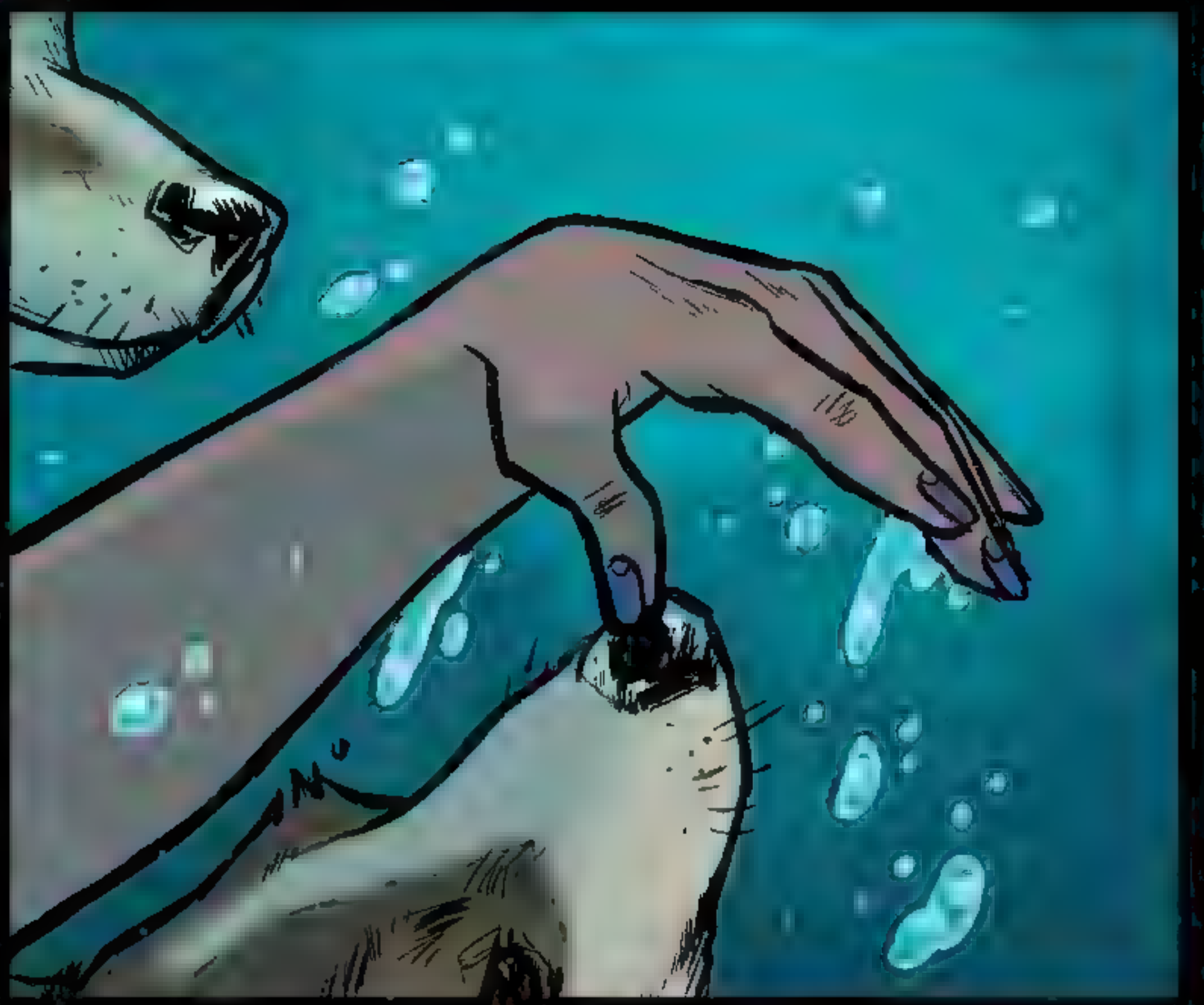
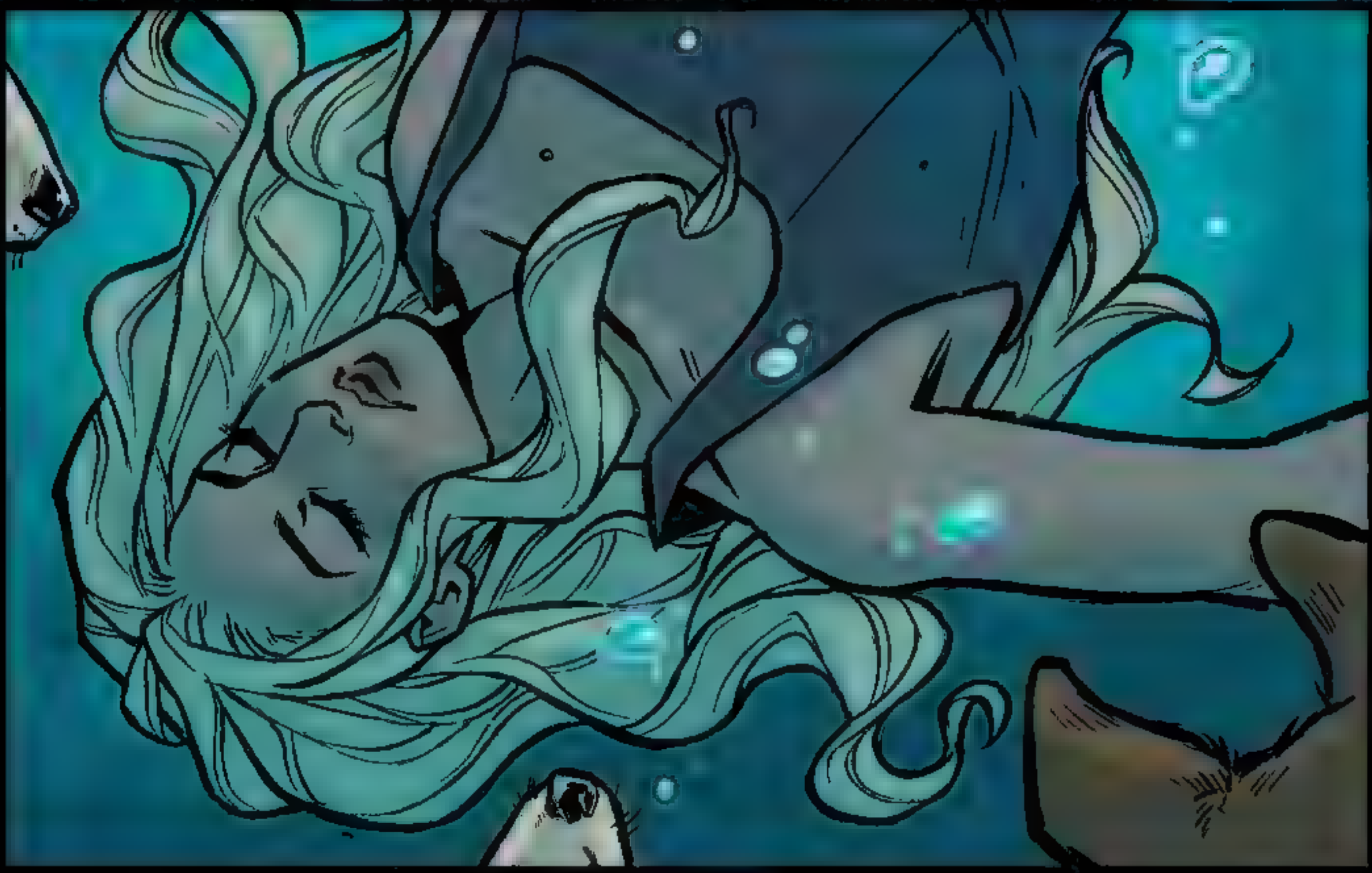


WHAM!

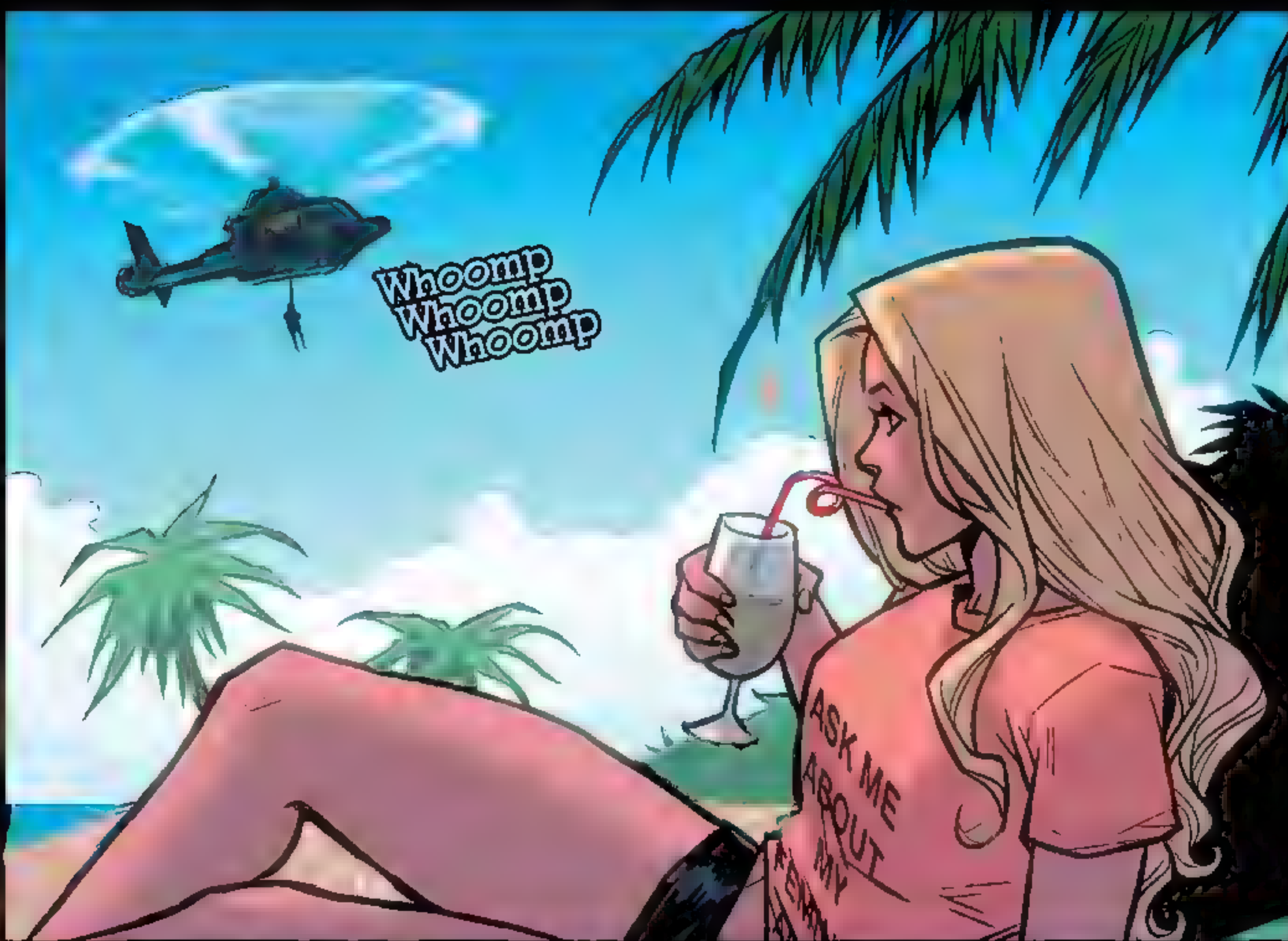
IF I CAN'T BE WITH YOU, NO ONE CAN.



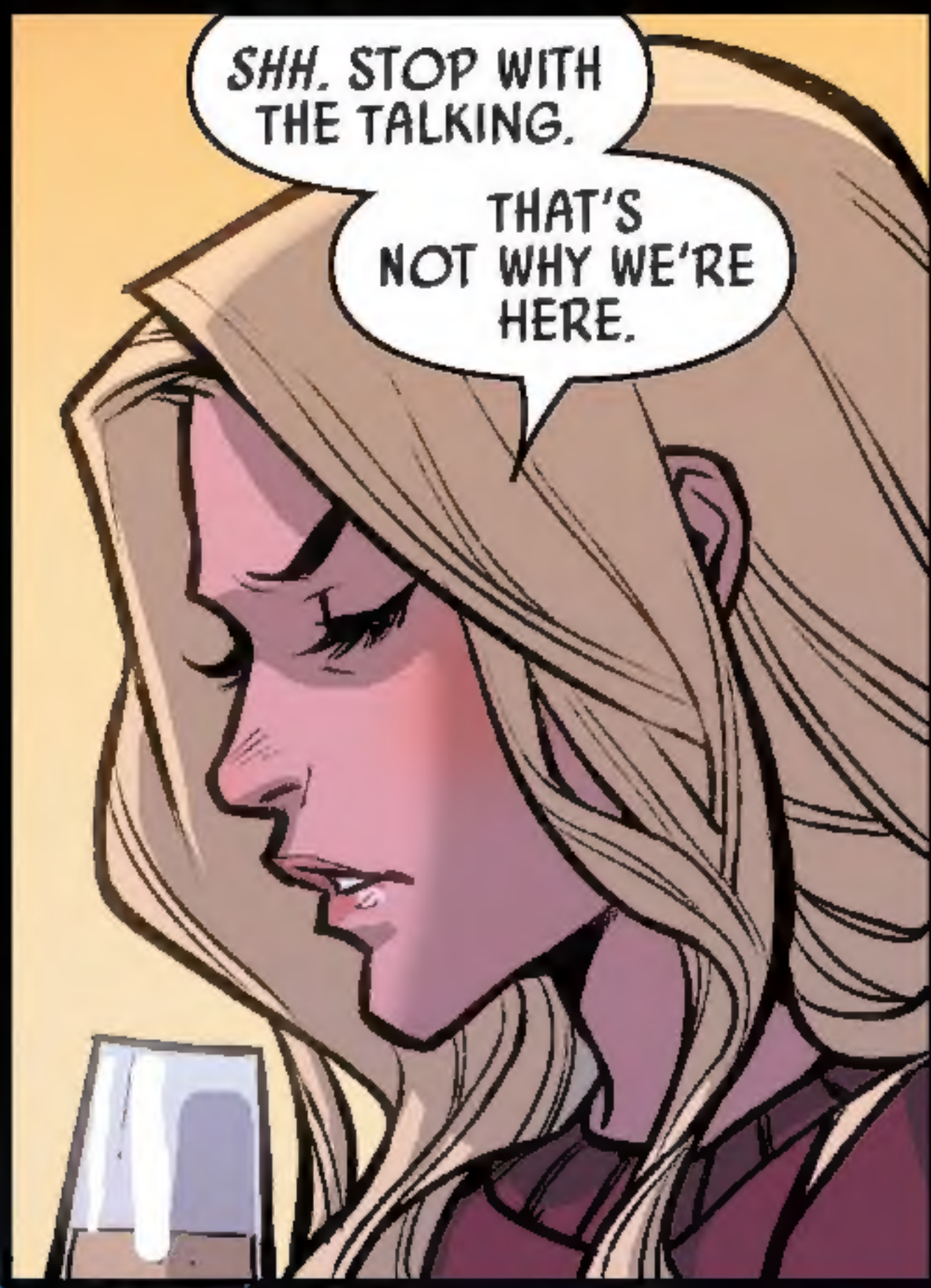
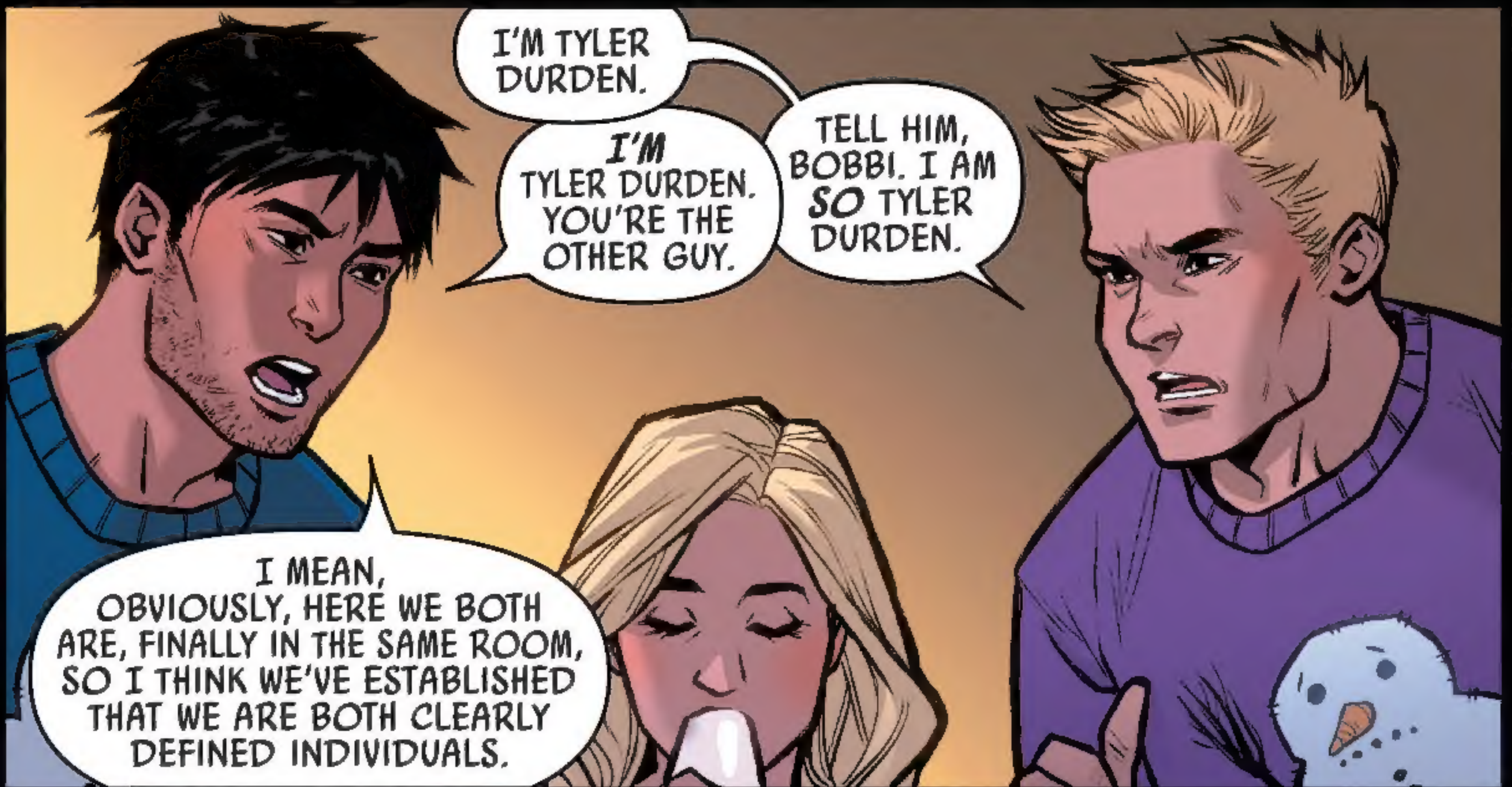
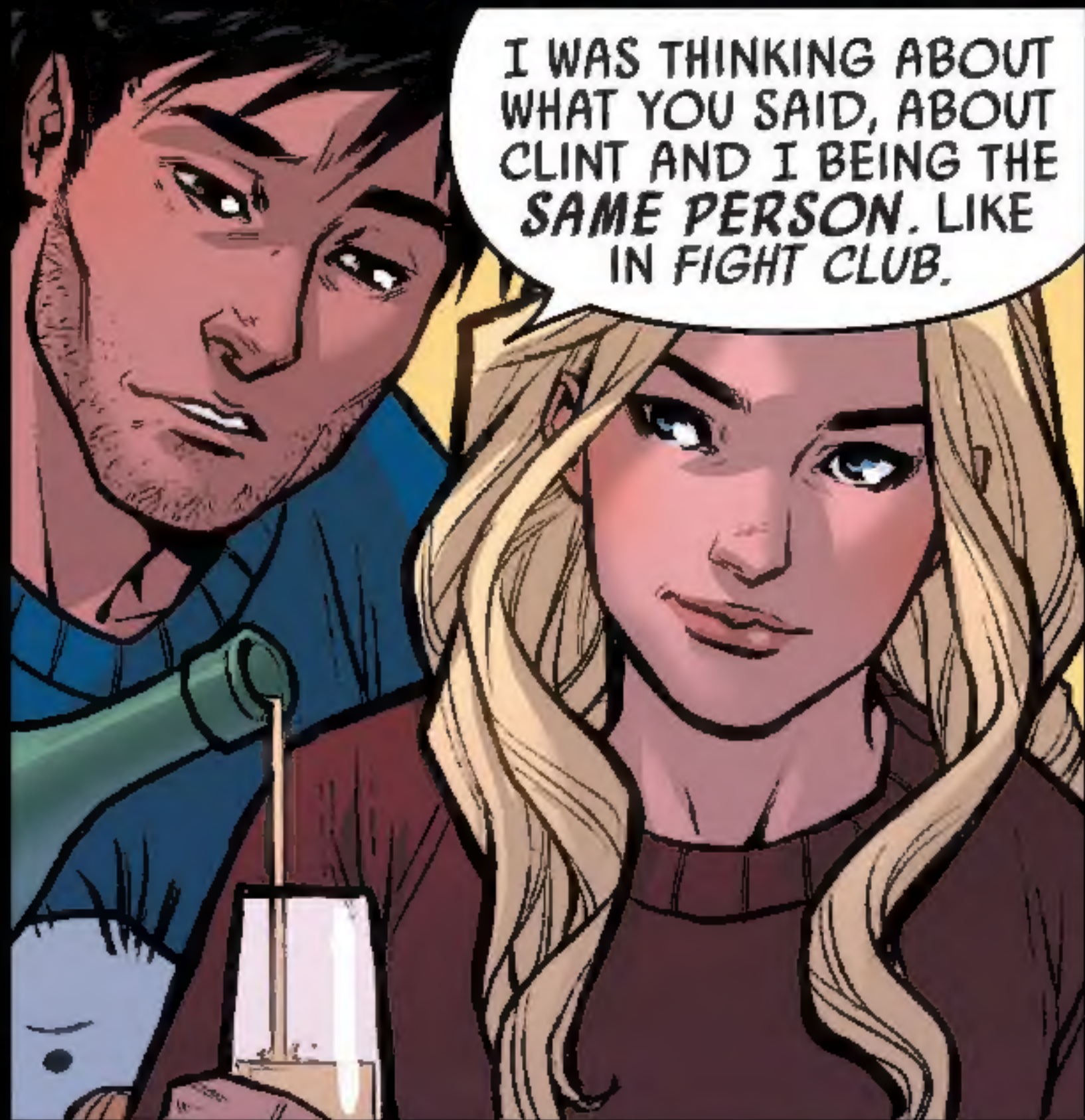
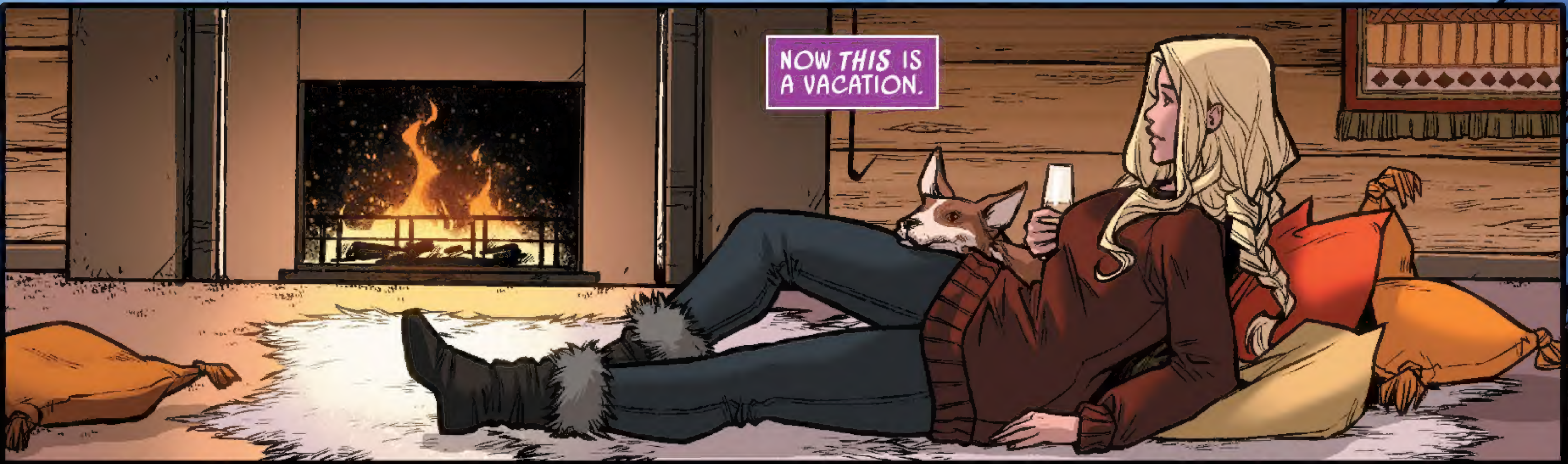




SAME BEACH.
THE NEXT DAY.



SKI CHALET.
SWISS ALPS.
TWO WEEKS LATER.



The first issue of MOCKINGBIRD ended with an apology. "None of that made any sense at all." I was sure the jig was up. That you'd see through me and send me packing. But look at us! Eight issues later!

This is the last issue in this little run. And I'm going to end it with a thank you note. Thank you. All of you. For showing up.

I'm not a comic book writer. I have no idea how I got here. I was having dinner with friends and then...it all gets a bit hazy. When I came to, I was writing MOCKINGBIRD for Marvel. Eight issues later, I'm still dizzy.

I love Bobbi. She has swagger and confidence. She likes herself. She doesn't second-guess her instincts. She knows she's awesome. Obviously, we're a lot alike. At least we share the same sense of humor.

This is my favorite issue. I'm so proud of it. We knew it was going to be our last, and everyone brought their A-game. So it's a great one to go out on. I have to give Marvel credit, because when I sent the script in to my editor, Katie Kubert, I was pretty sure she was going to tell me all the reasons why I couldn't do it. It's a crazy script. I figured, what the heck, right? I just put it all in. Mercorgis. Ghost pirates. Alpine threesomes. I kept checking my email to see if Katie had responded. Then, there it was. An email from her. I have Gmail, so I could see the first line of her email before I even clicked on it. "THIS SCRIPT IS RIDICULOUS..."

Crap.

Well, I'd tried.

Then I clicked on the email. "THIS SCRIPT IS RIDICULOUSLY AMAZING."

Always click on the email. That's the lesson there.

Katie is no longer at Marvel, but she is a huge part of MOCKINGBIRD. And she fought for parts of this script—including having Clint show up at the end. Thank you, Katie Kubert. I am so pleased to have gotten to work with you.

Christina Harrington was the assistant editor on this series, but that title doesn't even begin to cover all she brought to this book. I could always, always count on her. She has been a real champion of Bobbi's and of mine. Thank you, Christina.

The brilliant Manny Mederos did terrific back pages, in all kinds of styles, from paper dolls (his Clint Barton paper dolls are priceless) to yoga poses, to restraining orders. He was always able to take whatever concept I threw at him and do something clever and funny and smart.

Carlos Lao did the recap pages at the front of each issue. The Daily Blowhole is still my favorite thing ever, second only to the Kazakhstan matchbook he came up with for #3. Thanks, Carlos.

Sean Parsons was our inker on issues #4, #6, and #7. He is so smart and gifted, and really made Kate's drawings sing. Plus, he brought real vision and collaboration to the project. He was completely invested. Thank you, Sean.

Joëlle Jones has done every one of our covers. Joëlle and I once spent an evening together drinking hard liquor at a Portland bar up the street from my house. Who knew it was to be the beginning of such a fruitful creative friendship? Your covers are magnificent, Joëlle. They radiate style, sass, and glamor. Thank you.

Our colorist! Rachelle Rosenberg. Take a look at the hallway wallpaper on the nerd cruise. I gave her a few key words as direction for that wallpaper. Palm Beach. LOVE BOAT. Big print. Palm fronds. Now flip back in this issue and take a look at what she came up with. Believe me, you'll know it when you see it. That's a brilliant colorist. She found what I was seeing in my head, only even better. I just love it so much. One of the early directions I gave Rachelle was this: anything you've ever wanted to try as colorist, do it here. She has brought such dazzle and style and humor to this work. Colorists are underpaid and undervalued. But trust me, they make or break a book. And Rachelle made this one special from the start. Thank you, Rachelle.

Ibrahim Moustafa was our guest artist on issue #5. I am such a huge fan of his work on HIGH CRIMES (with Chris Sebela). Thank you, Ibrahim; you are amazing. That layout you did of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s underground medical complex still knocks my socks off.

Our letterer is Joe Caramagna. MOCKINGBIRD issues are really hard to letter. I have so many background jokes and signs and t-shirts and book jackets and maps and style shifts. And a lot of it is really small. It takes Joe twice as long to do one of my issues, and he gets paid the same page rate. Sometimes, I would send Joe hand-scribbled sketches of what I was imagining. Sometimes I sent font references. He's a genius, if you ask me. Thanks, Joe.

Tom Brevoort, I blame you for this whole thing. Tom is the one who offered me the gig, and he edited the first two issues along with Alanna Smith. I still had so much to learn, and they walked me through the process with such patience and grace. Thank you, Tom and Alanna.

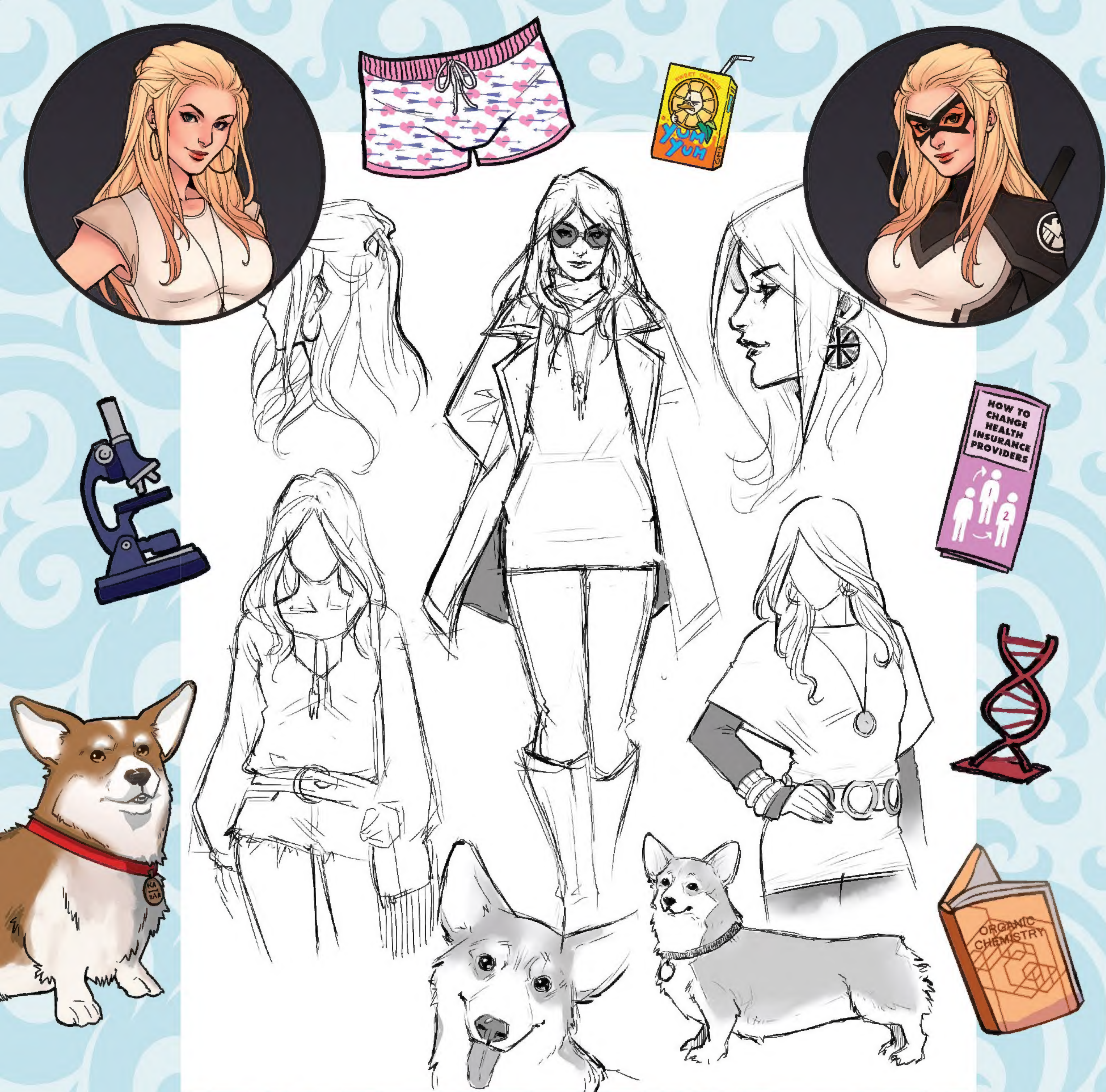
Kate Niemczyk. Where do I begin? Kate, you have brought Bobbi to life. "Our Bobbi," you called her in your first email to me. You have been game for all my shenanigans. You have put up with my early micromanaging. You created a character who is unapologetically beautiful, beautiful on her own terms, separate from the male gaze, but still not afraid to bask in it. Also, you draw the best corgi since Tasha Tudor. I have loved working with you. I have loved opening every layout you've sent, because it has always been thrilling. This issue, in particular, is your very best work. Did you know you could draw such excellent mercorgis? Thank you, Kate. A thousand times, thank you.

And thank you, reader person. You have given us a great gift. You have allowed us the privilege of spending time in your company and in the company of some pretty spectacular characters. Thank you, from all of us, for that.

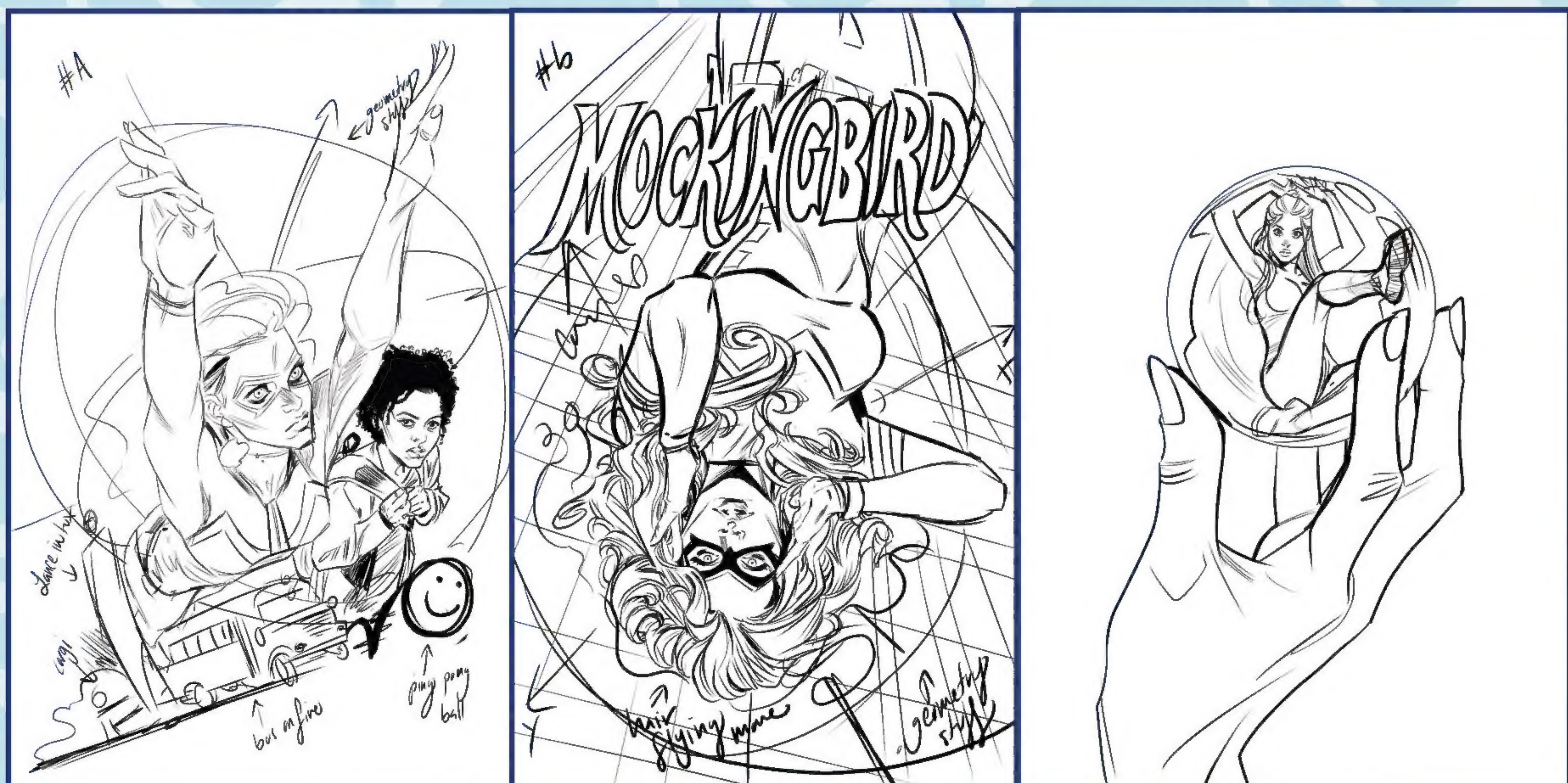
Maybe we'll see you around.

Until then,
Yours,
Chelsea.





MOCKINGBIRD CONCEPT SKETCHES BY **KATE NIEMCZYK**



COVER SKETCHES BY **JOËLLE JONES**

